

10 foreigners kidnapped in Somalia

NAIROBI (R) — Unidentified armed men kidnapped 10 French aid workers from Tug Wajale refugee camp in northern Somalia, a U.N. official said Saturday. The official told Reuters by telephone from the Somali capital Mogadishu that the aid workers were with the Paris-based medical relief organisation Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). The gunmen took them and one refugee from the MSF compound in the camp shortly after midnight and led them towards the Ethiopian border, six kilometres away, he said. The kidnapping followed widespread unrest around the nearby north western town of Hargeisa, where rebel attacks have coincided with protests at food shortages, aid officials said. The Ethiopian-backed Somali National Movement (SNM) earlier this month said its guerrillas took over the town of Burao, 160 kilometres east of Hargeisa, for four hours on Jan. 11.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan News Foundation
جورنال تلغراف يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرابطة

4 Americans kidnapped in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Three American professors and an Indian with an American passport were kidnapped Saturday from the campus of Beirut University College (BUC) by unidentified gunmen, security guards at the college said. The guards, who saw the kidnapping, told Reuters that four gunmen, disguised as policemen, entered the campus through the main gate in a police van. The guards identified the four kidnappers as Robert Polhill, Alan Steen, Jesse Turner and Mithleshwar Singh. One guard, who appeared shocked, said: "They told us they were sent to provide security for the foreigners... minutes later they sped through the main gate with the four in the car." Polhill and Turner were identified as business studies professors, while Singh was chairman of the Business Department at BUC. Steen was a journalism professor.

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King visits army headquarters

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, visited the Armed Forces General Headquarters where he was received by the Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid ibn Shaker and Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Fathi Abu Taleb. Also present were the Armed Forces inspector general, the assistant chiefs of staff and the commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force.

King honours officials

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Saturday conferring the Jordanian Independence Medal of the Second Degree on Mr. Ghaleb Arrabi, director of Range and Soil Preservation at the Ministry of Agriculture; the Jordanian Al Kawkab Medal of the Third Order on Dr. Mukhlis Ammarin, director of agriculture in Karak and the Jordanian Independence Medal of the Third Order on Mr. Ahmad Rimawi, director of the High Land Development Project. The medals were conferred in recognition of their distinguished efforts, according to an official statement.

S. Arabia sends \$9m in aid for occupied territories

AMMAN (Petra) — Saudi Arabia has transferred \$9 million to the account of the Jordanian-Palestinian Joint Fund, Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Duda announced Saturday. The Jordanian side in the Jordanian-Palestinian Joint Committee has requested that the committee hold a meeting to define the fields in which these funds will be spent to support the steadfastness of Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territories.

Polish deputy premier in Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — A Polish delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Wladyslaw Gwiazda, arrived Saturday for talks with Iraqi trade and industry officials on boosting cooperation, the official Iraqi News Agency INA said.

Bangladesh opposition leader arrested

DHAKA (R) — Police Saturday arrested a Bangladesh opposition leader, Begum Khaleda Zia, and at least 30 of her followers for staging an illegal demonstration against President Hossain Mohammad Ershad. They dispersed hundreds of other demonstrators from Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) who gathered in a city square for a rally in defiance of a government ban. Students angered by the arrests set at least three vehicles ablaze outside Dhaka University and fought pitched battles with police. Eyewitnesses said several people were injured.

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Basra is taking more hits but determined to hold out

From Lamis Andoni in Basra

Jordan Times Staff Reporter Lamis Andoni, who has been covering the latest developments in the Gulf war from Baghdad, made her own way to Basra over the weekend and filed the following report for the Jordan Times.

IRANIAN shells have not spared any building — including houses, hotels, restaurants and even hospitals — in eastern Basra. Yet after more than 16 days and nights of constant shelling, the "pearl of the south," as Basra is known to the Iraqis, is still defiantly and firmly holding out against Iranian attacks.

"We have been confident that our town would not fall to the invading Iranians," an Iraqi citizen said. "But after their failure to capture the city the Iranians are now trying to destroy it."

The Iraqi citizen, who was commenting on the continuous flood of reports and speculation that the southern port was falling, could be right. But as the Israeli siege of Beirut and the continuous shelling of the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon had shown before: thousands of shells and explosives cannot obliterate a city, or even shanty towns such as the refugee camps, as long as their people are holding out; and Basra may not be any different.

When Marie Clovis of the London Sunday Times and this

reporter decided to take a train down to Basra, we were expecting the worst.

The bus which we took after the long train ride was packed with soldiers heading to the frontlines. The driver agreed to drop us downtown. We had entered the western side of the city, where signs of an active life emerged from the rows of lined mud-brick houses, at the same time as women walked down the narrow alleys of the old city towards the open shops to do their morning shopping. The children, still in their pyjamas, were busily playing near the muddy ponds of rainwater.

Traces of war and death, however, were clearly visible, especially as the bus proceeded deeper into the sprawling port. A

body of a dead horse was left near a small square, while pieces of shrapnel were spread nearby. A soldiers' patrol was refilling the sandbags which were hit, while the sand was still spilling out from many sandbags which stood two to three metres high in front of the window plastered shops and buildings.

A group of people crowded in front of a big hospital while an ambulance hurried its way through the emergency entrance.

Yet for a city which is said to be hit by a shell every thirty seconds, it was an extremely calm (Friday) morning. "The night is Iran's while the day is Iraq's," explained a foreign resident, who said that while Iran was stepping up its shelling of the city during the night, the Iraqi army increased its firepower against the concentration of Iranian troops in the Shalat Al Ahwat marshes in the day time.

The Iranians, however, were not exactly taking a break during the day. For just as the bus dropped us near a big square, in the "Ashar area," the shelling started at 8:45 a.m.

"It is not wise to be walking in this area during the shelling," an Egyptian worker said to the two reporters. "What brought you here," he asked. Two other Egyptian workers, who came out of an alley nearby, explained that 'Ashar and Saudia, both set on the

west bank of Shatt Al Arab waterway had been taking the brunt of the shelling.

The streets were empty and littered with shrapnel and pieces of broken concrete and tree branches. Virtually all the windows were shattered and several air conditioning units were hanging out of the shelled buildings, while dusty and damaged furniture poked through holes of the few badly hit ones.

Owners of a small shop selling fresh pastery were going about their business, unperturbed by the shelling, as we decided to take refuge in a business firm where the manager and two of his assistants were holed up in the basement. The basement functioned as an office and a bedroom. A desk was placed in one part of the room, while three mattresses were used as beds at night, and as a sofa during the day. They told us they had not been out for the last 16 days. But an Iraqi telephone operator, who worked in the other room, said that life was going normally in other parts of the city.

"This is the only area where life has been disrupted by the shelling," she said. But for the manager, it was a different story. The firm had a foreign manager and the manager and his assistants felt that it was their responsibility to stick around

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Palestinians continue protests on West Bank, Gaza Strip

KHAN YUNIS, Occupied Gaza Strip (Agencies) — Israeli troops fired in the air and used tear gas to disperse a Palestinian student demonstration in this Arab town Saturday, Palestinian sources said.

The sources did not report any injuries, but told the Associated Press that the students, who gathered Saturday morning, smashed the gate of a local post office and broke into the building. The military command said that "the situation was quiet after guards were placed at the post office." Khan Yunis' merchants closed their shops for several hours in a commercial strike, the military command added.

An army spokesman, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Palestinian youths demonstrated in two of the town's schools and set an automobile tire ablaze. The spokesman could not confirm that soldiers used tear gas or fired to disperse the protesters. Palestinian sources said the students demonstrated against the decision to deport the 23-year-old Mohammad Ahlan, who according to military authorities is "a leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation." Ahlan's appeal is still pending before the courts.

Saturday's demonstration was the second to protest Ahlan's planned deportation. On Thursday, Israeli troops shot a Palestinian youth in the leg during a demonstration in a refugee camp near Gaza city.

The military command denied the teenager was shot, saying he was wounded in a fall while being chased by soldiers.

Troops fired in the air and used tear gas Saturday to disperse a demonstration in Nabulus, a Palestinian town in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Israel Radio reported.

The radio said that an Israeli soldier was lightly injured by a rock thrown by one of the Palestinian protesters.

An Israeli army officer was injured last week by Palestinians demonstrators outside the Balata Refugee Camp near Nabulus.

Last month, widespread disturbances erupted in the West Bank after Israeli troops shot dead two Palestinian students during a demonstration at Bir Zeit University.



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor receive Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke and Mrs. Hazel Hawke at Al Nadwa Palace in Amman Saturday (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

King Hussein, Hawke hold talks

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke met His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday and held talks with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and senior Jordanian officials.

Mr. Hawke, who arrived in Amman on Friday evening on a three-day official visit to Jordan, described his talks with the King and Mr. Rifai as "long and fruitful." He also praised Jordan's efforts to reach a settlement to the Palestinian problem and said his country "saw merits" in the Jordanian initiative to hold an international peace conference.

"I was given a detailed and very interesting account of Jordan's perceptions of the condition of the peace process during my talks today with His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Zaid Rifai," Mr. Hawke told a press conference at the Marriott Hotel Saturday evening.

"During my talks with the King and Premier Rifai I sensed realistic optimism that a perpetual settlement could be reached," he said.

He quoted the King as expressing hope that the Islamic summit in Kuwait would come out with decisive resolutions which would bring about peace in the Gulf.

Muslim leaders gather in Kuwait for summit

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Muslim leaders gathered in Kuwait Saturday for a controversial summit which seeks to end the Gulf war, raging a scant 50 miles to the north, and mediate in other conflicts in Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad declared the summit must produce "quick and swift action" to end the 6-year-old war between Iran and Iraq, the longest and bloodiest conventional conflict since World War II.

But 48 hours before the summit was scheduled to convene, a bomb went off Saturday in a car parked near a cemetery in downtown Kuwait.

Security officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the bomb, detonated by remote-control, caused no casualties or damage.

But a security source suggested a pro-Iranian group was behind the blast designed to get Kuwait to call off the summit.

Iran has announced it was boycotting the summit because it believed Kuwait was an "unsafe" venue — too close to the warzone. It also accused Kuwait of bias toward Iraq in the war.

In the past week, three fires have been extinguished at Kuwait oil installations and an artillery shell has crashed in the desert Falaika Island. Diplomats, who also requested anonymity, blamed the incidents on pro-Iranian saboteurs.

The fifth summit of the 46-nation Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), which represents some 850 million Muslims, meets as an Iranian offensive threatened Basra, in southern Iraq, and both sides waged tit-for-tat air and missile strikes that have killed or wounded thousands of civilians

Petra, said the King briefed Mr. Hawke on the current situation in the Middle East and Jordan's peace efforts aimed at bringing about a negotiated settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Jordan remains committed to the principle of convening an international peace conference on the Middle East as the basis to solve the Palestinian problem from all its dimensions, Petra quoted the King as telling the Australian premier.

An international peace conference, to be attended by all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict as well as the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, represents the best forum for implementing the U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338, the King added.

Mr. Hawke's meeting with the King included a working luncheon which was attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor, Mrs. Hazel Hawke, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Mrs. Rifai and senior Jordanian and Australian officials.

Mr. Rifai later hosted a dinner in honour of the Australian premier, his wife and the delegation accompanying them at the Amman Plaza Hotel.

Earlier on Saturday, the two premiers held a round of official

talks in which Mr. Rifai reviewed the latest developments in the Middle East and Jordan's stance on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Petra quoted the prime minister as reiterating the Kingdom's position on the Palestinian problem and its efforts towards convening an international peace conference.

Referring to Iraq's continued calls for an end to the Gulf war, Mr. Rifai explained to the Australian side the latest developments in the six-and-a-half year conflict and stressed the need to curb the bloodshed on the warfront, Petra said.

On the Lebanese civil war, Jordan stands firm in its call for an immediate halt to the conflict in order to preserve the integrity and sovereignty of the war-torn Arab state, Petra quoted Mr. Rifai as saying.

Mr. Rifai also briefed the Australian premier on the Kingdom's development projects and as envisaged in the five year development plan for East and West Banks and the Gaza Strip.

In his 45-minute press conference, Mr. Hawke praised King Hussein's sustained efforts aimed at reaching a comprehensive settlement to the Palestinian problem and said his

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Reagan expresses concern over Gulf conflict

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has sought to reassure Gulf nations on U.S. policy in the Iran-Iraq war amid new evidence of widespread domestic scepticism about the way he is handling the Iran arms scandal.

Mr. Reagan issued a statement expressing concern at the danger of a spillover of the Iran-Iraq war.

"It is a war that threatens not only American strategic interests, but also the stability and security of our friends in the region," Mr. Reagan said in the statement released by the White House.

Despite administration claims that the Iran arms sales were intended to help make contact with moderate elements in Iran, there is a widespread belief the operation was in fact an effort to trade arms for hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

But Secretary of State George Shultz told the Senate budget committee Friday: "I think that if this incident has reinforced anything, it has reinforced the correctness of a policy that says: 'Let's not make trades for hostages and give in to terrorism'."

Mr. Shultz received a strong new White House vote of confidence Friday following a published report that President Reagan's aides were unhappy with his performance.

"The senior staff at the White House is mightily ticked off about (the report) and wants to reiterate the president's support for Secretary Shultz," said presidential spokesman Larry Speakes.

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Superpowers show naval muscle in Mediterranean

NAPLES, Italy (AP) — In a clear-cut show of superpower naval rivalry in the Mediterranean, the U.S. 6th Fleet this weekend carried out large-scale exercises near Sicily and Soviet aircraft carrier patrolled off North Africa.

Despite the high level of activity in the Mediterranean coinciding with increased tensions in the Gulf region, a navy spokesman said the movements were not unusual.

The 6th Fleet exercise, involving the aircraft carriers USS John F. Kennedy and Nimitz and 27 other ships, constituted "the largest U.S. exercise in the Mediterranean in the past year," said navy spokesman Lt. Dave Morris.

About 14,000 navy personnel and 1,800 Marines took part in the war games, codenamed "National Week," to test "coordination of air and sea control forces and amphibious assault forces," Lt. Morris said.

In addition, the U.S. Air Force conducted exercises in southern Turkey last week.

Lt. Morris denied a recent report in the West German magazine Der Spiegel that U.S. forces were deploying for possible intervention in the Gulf war if Iran captures the strategic Iraqi city of Basra.

"National Week was planned for a long time ... and is not related" to the Gulf conflict, Lt. Morris said Friday.

However, he added: "It's logical to assume that the 6th Fleet is getting intelligence report and is ready to respond to whatever contingency arises."

If required, the U.S. carriers, steaming at full speed, could reach the Suez Canal from their current location in about two days, he said.

Closer to the canal was a Soviet

task force patrolling near Libya and Egypt.

A navy P-3 surveillance and reconnaissance plane on Friday located the aircraft carrier Kiev, two destroyers and a cruiser as they neared an anchorage point off Salloum, which is just inside Egypt's border with Libya.

Lt. Morris said the Kiev, one of the Soviet Union's four aircraft carriers, last patrolled in the Mediterranean in fall 1985.

The 37,100-ton Kiev entered the sea on Jan. 16 after passing through the Strait of Gibraltar and anchored briefly in the Gulf of Hammamet off Tunisia, he said.

Despite the timing of the deployment, the Soviet ship did not show particular interest in monitoring the 6th Fleet exercises, Lt. Morris said.

"We consider it a routine Soviet turnover in the Mediterranean," he said. "If the Kiev wanted to observe or disrupt the exercises, she would be moving in the other direction."

The navy reconnaissance plane, equipped with sophisticated radar and electronic tracking equipment, made a series of low-flying passes to get a rare close look and photographs of the Kiev, the Sovremennyy class destroyers and Kresta II class cruiser.

Six media representatives who went on the P-3 flight from Naples saw two Soviet helicopters, a Hornet Bravo and a Helix, conducting flight operations about 24 kilometres from the Kiev task force.

Three helicopters were visible on the deck of the Kiev and one on the deck of the Kresta II class cruiser. The Kiev can also carry 12 foreign fixed-wing aircraft.

The reconnaissance plane circled for several hours, refraining from entering Libya's internationally-recognised air space, before zeroing in on the Soviet ships as they entered neutral waters.

In a sequence repeated half a dozen times, the plane dipped to 60 to 100 metres above the water before sweeping past the Soviet ships at a distance of 228 metres as crewmen snapped photographs.

Lt. Morris said both superpowers normally keep 30 to 40 ships in the Mediterranean. While the Soviet vessels usually have more missile launchers and gun mounts, the U.S. ships have more ammunition and missiles, he said.

A recent study by Adm. Arthur S. Moreau, Jr., the commander of NATO forces in Southern Europe who died in December, said the Soviets have steadily strengthened their Mediterranean fleet.

But they are handicapped because they are still primarily supplied at anchorages in international waters, while the Americans have access to bases in Italy and elsewhere, Adm. Moreau wrote.

In wartime conditions, the Soviets would be "most vulnerable" because of the lack of logistical bases and because access to the Mediterranean through the Gibraltar and Bosphorus Straits are controlled by NATO allies Spain and Turkey, he said.

Adm. Moreau's study said the Soviets have the edge in air power. "The shortage of southern region modern combat aircraft is our greatest single shortcoming," he wrote.

Muslim leaders gather in Kuwait

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ally, President Hafez Assad of Syria, has said he will attend the summit after initially saying he would not.

That was clearly a major boost for the Gulf states who have been spearheading the peace drive amid spiralling alarm at Iran's offensives and the threat that Iran could engulf them if left unchecked.

Mr. Assad has been under pressure by Gulf nations to change his strategic alliance with Iran against Iraq.

"We will not accept any Arab territory," he was quoted as saying in Kuwait's Al Qabas daily Saturday. "That includes Iraq. Nor will we accept expansion of the war to other countries."

He warned Iran that "expansion of the war means the outbreak of a Persian-Arab war" and that a seizure of Arab land "will mean a change in the Syrian position."

Meanwhile President Hosni Mubarak marked Egypt's

symbolic return to the Arab fold Saturday, arriving early to attend his first Islamic summit since his country was ostracised for making peace with Israel.

The leader of the most populous Arab country, flew into a warm embrace from host Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah two days ahead of the summit.

While there has been no general Arab move to formalise ties again, Kuwait and other Gulf states have warmed towards Egypt over the past year, partly out of mutual support for Iraq in its war with Iran.

Diplomats had predicted a showdown between Egypt and Syria, which has objected to Cairo participating in the three-day summit.

But as the summit approached, the tone from both Damascus and Cairo sounded conciliatory. Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid said this week he did not rule out the possibility of a meeting in Kuwait between Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Assad.

Mr. Assad, one of Egypt's most vociferous Arab critics, referred

to Mr. Mubarak as a "good man" in the interview with Al Qabas.

"Our position is not against Hosni Mubarak the person but stems from Arab and Islamic resolutions condemning the Camp David peace treaty (between Egypt and Israel)," he said.

A proposal by Syria recommending that Egypt's OIC membership be declared illegal was deleted from the draft agenda, and an Egyptian attack on Syria's human rights record was also scrapped.

In New York, Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar was scheduled to leave Saturday for Kuwait, where he will attend the OIC summit.

During his stay in Kuwait, Mr. Perez de Cuellar will have private talks on the Iran-Iraq war and Afghanistan. He will also address the Islamic summit.

Under Secretary General Diego Cordovez, the chief U.N. official involved in the Afghan proximity talks, will travel to Kuwait with Mr. Perez de Cuellar to hold further consultations in preparation for the next round in Geneva.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kurdish rebels kill 10 in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Kurdish rebels killed 10 civilians, including seven children, in a village near the south eastern Turkish town of Mardin, the semi-official Anatolian News Agency reported Saturday. It said five more people were injured in the attack to two houses in the village Friday night by the rebels fighting for autonomy in the region. Eight civilians were killed on Thursday night when hand grenades were thrown down a stove pipe in a village near the south eastern town of Uludere. The authorities suspected that Kurdish rebels were responsible.

Sharjah ruler opens Islamic centre

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates (R) — A Saudi-financed Islamic centre, named after late King Faisal, was opened by the ruler of Sharjah, Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammad Al Qasbi, for 36-million dirham (\$10 million) centre consists of a mosque for 6,000 worshippers, a library, a lecture hall, a ladies section and a car park for 1,500 vehicles. Salem Al Awar, manager of the centre, company which built it, said. He said construction of the centre, financed directly by the Saudi Ministry of Finance and National Economy, began in late 1982 on land donated by Sharjah's ruler. Officials at the Saudi embassy in Abu Dhabi said the centre was built as part of the kingdom's policy of setting up mosques in Muslim countries.

Chad reports new battles with Libyans

N'DJAMENA (R) — The Chadian army reported new battles with Libyan troops around the northern town of Zouar, which the government said it had captured two days ago. A military communiqué said Libyan reinforcements from the Libyan town of Sebha were wiped out in the fighting, which began early Friday. Chad said Thursday its forces killed 193 Libyans in mopping up operations around Zouar. The government of President Hissene Habre has been trying to drive Libyan troops from the north of the country for the past month. Besides Zouar, a strategic town in the Tibesti Mountains 1,000 kilometres from N'Djamena, it says its troops have recaptured the Libyan base of Padi.

Pentagon 'undercharged' CIA for arms sold to Iran

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon undercharged the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) almost \$2.6 million for the anti-tank missiles that were secretly sold to Iran last year, defence officials have said.

An internal investigation concluded that it was a mistake and found no evidence to support allegations that the Pentagon and CIA conspired to undervalue the weapons to produce bigger profits when the CIA resold the weapons to Iran, the officials said.

Pentagon chief spokesman Robert Sims said the Defence Department intends to ask the CIA soon for more money to cover the full value of the Tow anti-tank missiles.

The confirmation that the 2,008 Tow missiles sold to Iran in 1986 were under-valued is contained in an internal audit done by the army's inspector general. The audit was ordered by Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger in December and conducted by the army's inspector general.

Mr. Weinberger ordered an unclassified version of the audit released to news organisations, Mr. Sims said.

The internal audit found that the army charged the CIA roughly \$11.7 million — \$7,374,163 for 2,008 Tow anti-tank missiles and \$4,325,837 for spare parts for Hawk air-defence missiles.

Spain, Italy discuss Mediterranean conflicts

PALMA, Majorca (R) — The Spanish and Italian prime ministers, Felipe Gonzalez and Bettino Craxi, have discussed a plan to set up a forum to settle conflicts in the Mediterranean, a Spanish official said.

The two leaders, leading campaigners for Euro-Arab dialogue, began two days of talks Friday on the Spanish island of Majorca.

The forum would function as a consultative body which would seek peaceful solutions to conflicts in the Mediterranean, a Spanish official Julian Castedo told reporters.

He said both countries had already begun contacts with North African and Middle East states to canvass support.

Mr. Castedo said visits last week by Mr. Gonzalez to Tunisia and Egypt and one to Rome by King Juan Carlos were part of the diplomatic initiative.

Spanish diplomats said events such as the U.S. bombing of Libya, Britain's break in relations with Syria and the conflicts in Chad and Lebanon made such a move particularly urgent.

Iranian offensive boosts military recruiting

By Gerald F. Seib

TEHRAN — Iran is getting an important morale boost from its latest war offensive, though the attack is slowing and Iraq is mounting increasingly bloody reprisals.

By punching into Iraqi territory and moving close to Basra, Iraq's second-largest city and its main port, Iranian troops have buried memories here to a costly offensive that failed last month.

The military progress is being chronicled in a flood of television

pictures set to martial music and beamed to the Iranian population.

The drive also has boosted Iranian military recruiting. Iranian officials say and diplomats confirm. Thousands of recruits sporting headbands lettered with patriotic sayings have signed up and marched off to the front in recent days. Iran's offensive also seems to have bolstered confidence in the government and helped reduce grumbling about power and fuel shortages that was heard at the outset of the cold

Tehran winter, diplomats say. The

government itself exhibited confidence by inviting in a group of foreign journalists, including Americans.

But Iraq has begun striking back with growing fury. On Jan. 22, Iraqi warplanes bombed 10 Iranian cities and a village, killing 202 Iranians and wounding 644 more, Iran news agency reported.

The Iranian claim couldn't be verified, but Iraq, too, has been asserting that its bombing raids are damaging and effective — Wall Street Journal.

Basra determined to hold out

(Continued from page 1)

during the shelling. "It is rather a political statement," he explained. "We are determined to continue the business so that the firm would not pull out of Basra."

Three blocks away, another enterprise run by another international firm, Sheraton Basra, was already pulling out of the city. Sheraton completed the evacuation of all its foreign staff on Saturday.

In the last week, Sheraton was hit by 22 shells. Its rooftop superclub was completely destroyed, while many rooms had been badly damaged.

Fortunately though not all the shells that had landed in the port city exploded. While we were at the site, two shells hit the hotel but did not explode. It was dangerous.

"The destruction would have been much worse if all the shells had exploded. Some of the shells would just not explode," one foreign resident of Basra said.

By 2:30 p.m. on Friday the shelling tapered off, but Iraqi artillery continued to pound Iranian positions.

According to Western military sources in Baghdad the Iranians were still attacking in waves during the night. "Around 10,000

of them attack every night in an attempt to penetrate Iraqi defences near Basra," the sources said. "By daybreak, however, thousands of corpses of Revolutionary Guards are reported to fill the marshes," the sources added.

The villas around the Sheraton Hotel looked empty and deserted. "Ashar and Sandia suburbs seem to be the only places which were deserted in Basra. These constitute less than quarter of the whole area of the city, and they are the closest to the battle zone."

(Well informed sources told the Jordan Times that Iraq's third defence line of Basra is actually the 'Ashar suburb).

As darkness fell on Friday, the lights which peeped through holes in sandbagged walls erected in front of houses clearly showed that the people were determined to stay.

But as we drove further west through the residential areas of Kuwait, Algeria and Palestine (many suburbs in Basra are named after Arab states including Jordan), then lights were on in most villas except those homes which had been badly hit by Iranian shelling.

But for an almost besieged city,

King, Hawke hold talks

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country backed the Jordanian initiative towards holding a international conference on the region.

On the economic side, the Australian premier said that his country was contemplating "technical material assistance" to Jordan as contributions towards implementing investment projects in the occupied territories.

He did not define what the material assistance would be but said Australia was ready to contribute to Jordan's development within its capabilities.

Mr. Hawke said that he received an offer from Jordan to

establish joint Jordanian-Australian ventures in the fields of livestock processing, transport development in the Kingdom and phosphate fertiliser industries in Jordan.

He said that the prospects for initiating joint ventures would be thoroughly evaluated back in Australia.

On Australia's stand vis-a-vis the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Mr. Hawke said his country recognised the significance of the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people. However, Australia does not recognise the diplomatic status of the PLO until it has recognised Israel's right to exist, the Australian minister said.

The potential Iranian plan, he explained, is to create a Shiite puppet state in the south. The majority of southern part of Iraq are Shi'ites and paintings of Imam Ali are seen everywhere.

So far, however, Basra is holding out, but Iraqis expect Iran to step up its attacks soon, especially during the convening of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) summit.

"If the summit wants to be useful they had better do so something to force Iran to stop the war, instead of watching Iran trying to destroy Basra," a young Iraqi who offered us a ride to the station said. "We have no illusions about such summits," the young man continued. "We know that we have to continue fighting to defend Basra."

TV & RADIO

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15:30 Koran
15:35 Programme review
15:40 Health Clinic
15:45 A Whole World of Children
15:50 Rikking It All
15:55 Candid Camera
16:00 Local Agricultural programme
16:05 Arabic series
16:10 Local programme
16:15 Programme review
16:20 News in Arabic
16:25 Arabic series
16:30 Local programme
16:35 Tomorrow's programme
16:40 TV Magazine (local)
16:45 News summary in Arabic
16:50 Arabic series

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Les 5 demieres minutes
17:35 News in French
17:40 La vallee des peupliers
17:45 News in Hebrew
17:50 Varieties
17:55 News in Arabic
18:00 Who's the Boss
18:05 The Day the Universe Changed (documentary)
18:10 News in English
18:15 Magon

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07:30 Light Music
07:35 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
08:05 News Summary
08:10 In Concert
08:15 News Summary
08:20 Pop Talk
08:25 News Summary
08:30 News Summary
08:35 Pop Session (local)
08:40 News Bulletin
08:45 News Summary
08:50 Science Report
08:55 Concert Hour
09:00 News Summary
09:05 News Summary
09:10 News Summary
09:15 Old Favourites
09:20 Laissez-choise
09:25 News Summary
09:30 Jazz Hour
09:35 News Summary
09:40 Date with a Star
09:45 Evening Show
09:50 News Summary
09:55 Evening Show Contd.

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1323 KHz

PROGRAMME ONE

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Nashville Cuts
06:45 Reflections 06:50 Financial Review 07:00 World News 07:05 24 Hours: News Summary 07:30 Patrick Marlow's Music Box 07:45 Letter from America 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Jazz for the Ashes 08:45 World News 08:50 24 Hours: News Summary 09:30 From Our Own Correspondent 09:50 Waveguide 10:00 World News 10:05 Reflections 10:15 The Pleasure's Yours 11:00 World News 11:05 British Press Review 11:15 Science in Action 11:45 A future for the Past 12:00 News Summary: Short Story 12:15 Classical Record Review 12:30 Religious Service 12:45 World News 12:50 News About Britain 13:15 From Our Own Correspondent 13:30 From the Proms '86 14:00 News Summary: Play of the Week: Cash Me a Portrait 14:10 World News 14:15 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 Sports Round-up 15:45 The Saudi Jones Request Show 16:30 Play: Jude the Obscure 17:00 Radio News 17:15 Concert Hall 18:00 World News 18:05 Commentary 18:15 Crime and Punishment 18:45 Letter from America 19:00 World News 19:05 Reflections 19:15 Meridian 19:45 Sports Roundup 20:00 Newsdesk 20:30 A Minute 21:00

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260, KHz: 7200, 9505, 1174, 11925 & 15210

PROGRAMME ONE

05:00 News 05:10 VOA Morning 05:30 News Summary 05:40 VOA Morning 05:50 News Summary 06:00 VOA Morning 06:10 News Summary 06:20 VOA Morning 06:30 News Summary 06:40 VOA Morning 06:50 News Summary 07:00 VOA Morning 07:10 News Summary 07:20 VOA Morning 07:30 News Summary 07:40 VOA Morning 07:50 News Summary 08:00 VOA Morning 08:10 News Summary 08:20 VOA Morning 08:30 News Summary 08:40 VOA Morning 08:50 News Summary 09:00 VOA Morning 09:10 News Summary 09:20 VOA Morning 09:30 News Summary 09:40 VOA Morning 09:50 News Summary 10:00 VOA Morning 10:10 News Summary 10:20 VOA Morning 10:30 News Summary 10:40 VOA Morning 10:50 News Summary 11:00 VOA Morning 11:10 News Summary 11:20 VOA Morning 11:30 News Summary 11:40 VOA Morning 11:50 News Summary 12:00 VOA Morning 12:10 News Summary 12:20 VOA Morning 12:30 News Summary 12:40 VOA Morning 12:50 News Summary 13:00 VOA Morning 13:10 News Summary 13:20 VOA Morning 13:30 News Summary 13:40 VOA Morning 13:50 News Summary 14:00 VOA Morning 14:10 News Summary 14:20 VOA Morning 14:30 News Summary 14:40 VOA Morning 14:50 News Summary 15:00 VOA Morning 15:10 News Summary 15:20 VOA Morning 15:30 News Summary 15:40 VOA Morning 15:50 News Summary 16:00 VOA Morning 16:10 News Summary 16:20 VOA Morning 16:30 News Summary 16:40 VOA Morning 16:50 News Summary 17:00 VOA Morning 17:10 News Summary 17:20 VOA Morning 17:30 News Summary 17:40 VOA Morning 17:50 News Summary 18:00 VOA Morning 18:10 News Summary 18:20 VOA Morning 18:30 News Summary 18:40 VOA Morning 18:50 News Summary 19:00 VOA Morning 19:10 News Summary 19:20 VOA Morning 19:30 News Summary 19:40 VOA Morning 19:50 News Summary 20:00 VOA Morning 20:10 News Summary 20:20 VOA Morning 20:30 News Summary 20:40 VOA Morning 20:50 News Summary 21:00 VOA Morning 21:10 News Summary 21:20 VOA Morning 21:30 News Summary 21:40 VOA Morning 21:50 News Summary 22:00 VOA Morning 22:10 News Summary 22:20 VOA Morning 22:30 News Summary 22:40 VOA Morning 22:50 News Summary 23:00 VOA Morning 23:10 News Summary 23:20 VOA Morning 23:30 News Summary 23:40 VOA Morning 23:50 News Summary

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

Exhibitions

* An exhibition of photographs entitled "La Ville" at the French Cultural Centre (until Jan. 29).

* A painting exhibition by Sri Y. Abu Shihab at the Petra Bank Gallery - Wadi Saqra (until Feb. 3).

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267

American Centre 644371

British Council 631478

French Cultural Centre 637005

Goethe Institute 641993

Soviet Cultural Centre 644203

Spanish Cultural Centre 624049

Turkish Cultural Centre 639777

Haya Arts Centre 661181/6

Y.W.C.A. 641793

Y.W.M.C.A. 664251

Austrian Municipal Library 637111

University of Jordan Library 843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also

mosaics from Nabataea and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre.

Azraq. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an

excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qaf (Cliffed Hill).

Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a

collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists.

Mausoleum, Jabel Lureidish. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. and 3.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.

Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916.

Sports Club, Azraq. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lines Amman Club. Meetings every

first and third Wednesday at the

Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.

Lines Philadelphia Club. Meetings

every second and fourth Wednesday at

the Amman Hotel, 7.30 p.m.

Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings

Dajani issues instructions for nationwide survey on transport

By Ahmad Kreishan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Interior Rajai Dajani has instructed all provincial governors in the Kingdom to set up special committees in their respective areas to conduct field surveys on all means of transport, whether privately owned vehicles or public transport facilities provided by different agencies, companies and taxi offices. The survey, he said, should cover all vehicles operating within the governorate itself and between that particular governorate and towns and cities in other governorates.

The survey, he said, should produce detailed information about owners and drivers of the vehicles, the routes they follow, the number of seats in the vehicles, the number of inhabitants benefitting from public transport, public transport requirements and other related information. The survey is needed to help the Ministry of Interior take proper decisions when issuing new licences for new vehicles operating on additional routes, he said.

The minister also requested the Amman governor to study a memorandum from the traffic officer at the Ministry of Interior

in which he suggests assigning a bus stop for the public transport company in a street which runs by the Jordan Cigarette Company in downtown, Amman. This stop would benefit residents living in the southern and western districts of the capital, the minister said.

Mr. Dajani underlined the need to launch an information campaign which would inform the public of the proposal and about any other changes in bus stops. The minister said that buses run by the Public Transport Corporation should maintain their present services on routes linking Al Wihdat in the east with the University of Jordan in the west and vice-versa.

In a separate set of instructions, the minister of interior requested Civil Defence Department Director Khaled Tarawneh to take steps to ensure that cars that distribute gas bottles to homes are equipped with safety requirements.

He said all vehicles distributing gas bottles should be left uncovered to prevent any leaking gas from accumulating and that the floor and the sides of the vehicles should be wooden. The instructions also said that wooden boards should be placed between the bottles to prevent friction and that fire extinguishers should be available.

3 die from gunshot wounds

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 16-year-old boy from Mahatta district in east Amman on Friday shot and killed another youth, identified only as S.M.S., according to a police source on Saturday. The murderer was reported to have later told the police that the victim had tried to attack him with a knife and that he shot him in self defence.

The police source also reported that a man from Nazif district in Amman shot and killed a

29-year-old man from the same district. The man who died was identified only as K.M. Kh.

The source also said that a young man, identified as S.A.M., aged 16 was accidentally killed whilst looking after his sheep, grazing in a field. The source said that the young shepherd was carrying a shot gun which went off accidentally when he slipped, killing him at once.

Deir Alla-Amman pipeline to face water supply test

By Leila Deeb
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan's prestigious JD 51 million Deir Alla water project faces its first acid test this summer — whether it will be able to supply the capital's one million people with domestic water.

Jordan, with few natural water resources, has long been looking into ways to utilise its erratic rainfall to meet the water needs of Amman in the dry summer months.

The project, 50 kilometres west of Amman, was completed in late 1985, but successive dry winters have meant its main reservoir, capable of holding 246,000 cubic metres of water, has not been filled.

"This is the test year and we shall see how much water it can produce," Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) President Mohammad Saleh Al Keilani said. Weathermen say more rain fell in the first four wet months this season than in all of last year, especially in northern areas feeding the East Ghor Canal.

Mr. Keilani said that last year only four million cubic metres was pumped by the Deir Alla station,

although it has an hourly pumping capacity of approximately 5,000 cubic metres.

Water consumption to rise

"Last summer, Amman residents consumed some 8,800 cubic metres per hour," he said. Consumption was expected to increase by 20 per cent this year and by another 15 per cent in the summer of 1988.

Dr. Munther Haddadin, director of the Jordan Valley Authority, said the Deir Alla project was unique in its double use of water.

Potable water was sent from the main reservoir into four smaller ones in Amman before going north to Zarqa, Jordan's second largest city.

Used water was then collected into a treatment plant north of Zarqa and fed into the Zarqa River for collection in the King Talal Dam.

From the dam, some water was diverted into a pipeline servicing farmlands in the fertile area and the rest was released back into the East Ghor Canal, just north of Deir Alla station.

WAJ begins symposium on control of water operations

AMMAN (Petra) — The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) Saturday opened a five-day symposium on the automatic control of water pumping stations, water networks and sewerage systems in the Kingdom. The symposium is designed to orient participants on the control and maintenance of these operations and it will offer the chance for discussions on designs of water, networks and sewerage systems which are now being implemented by the WAJ in Jordan.

The idea of introducing automatic systems is to enable the WAJ headquarters to control all

such operations from a central control room, thereby saving funds and effort, according to WAJ Director Mohammad Saleh Al Keilani who addressed the opening session. He said that the WAJ was continually improving its services to citizens and therefore requires highly skilled personnel for its operations.

Altogether, 15 engineers and technicians from WAJ are taking part in the symposium which is also being attended by representatives from various local and foreign companies and firms operating in Jordan.

School supervisors meet to discuss programmes for student guidance

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education on Saturday opened its 19th meeting of school supervisors and other staff in charge of student guidance activities in schools.

Addressing the opening session was Dr. Izzat Jaradat, director of general education at the ministry, who underlined the importance of guidance in the process of education, noting its benefits for students. He said guidance includes helping students to develop socially and psychologically in addition to academically and vocationally.

Dr. Jaradat, who was addressing the session on behalf of Minister of Education Thagoun Hindawi, said that the ministry regards student guidance as an

integrated programme which helps them decide on future careers and adapt to society needs.

The Ministry of Education, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and Jordanian universities, is helping to supply other Arab states with expertise in student guidance. Dr. Jaradat said. He said that the ministry now plans to establish a central guidance centre to gather information about students' wishes and to offer guidance and solutions to their problems.

Also speaking at the opening session was Dr. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, head of the educational guidance section at the Ministry of Education. She referred to

Jordan, Syria sign minutes of joint talks on transport

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Syria have signed minutes of talks held in Damascus by the general assemblies of the Jordanian Syrian Shipping Company (JSSC) and the Jordanian Syrian Land Transport Company (JSLTC) between Jan. 21 and Jan. 24.

Minister of Transport Ahmad Dakhqan and his Syrian counterpart Yusef Ahmad signed the minutes at the conclusion of meetings which both ministers co-chaired in Damascus.

At the signing ceremony, the two ministers exchanged speeches in which they expressed pleasure over the positive outcome of the meetings which, they said, would lead to promoting the operations and performances of the two joint companies. Both ministers said that the development of the two companies constitutes a basic step towards further and more solid economic cooperation between the two countries in general and in transport affairs in particular.

Mr. Dakhqan said that the positive results of the meetings represent a model for similar ventures among other Arab countries.

Mr. Dakhqan announced that the two joint companies together realised a margin of between eight and 10 per cent profit in the past year.

The general assemblies of the two companies endorsed the budgets of the companies, working plans and investments for 1987, and also approved the appointment of Jamil Al Nazif as vice president to the JSSC. Mr. Nazif is also director general of the JSLTC.

Mr. Nazif said the JSLTC transported 1.25 million tonnes of goods and collected JD 4.3 million in revenues in the past year. The joint company, he said, owns a fleet of 366 lorries and refrigerated trucks.

According to Mr. Dakhqan, he met with Syrian Prime Minister Abdul Ra'ouf Al Kasbi to discuss ways of further bolstering cooperation between the two countries in transport affairs using the ports of both countries and available means of transport in the transportation of goods from and to Syria and Jordan.

Discussions also covered the subject of training Jordanian personnel on running railways and ports in Syrian training centres, according to Mr. Dakhqan who also said that the Aleppo-based railway training centre has already accepted nine Jordanian students.

The minister did not disclose the contents of the minutes which were believed to have covered measures for increasing the number of vessels owned by JSSC which now owns only two vessels, Barada and Yarmouk, based at the Syrian port of Tartous, each with a capacity of 6,000 tonnes.

During the talks in the Syrian capital, Mr. Dakhqan said that the focus was on the prospect of integrating the work of the two joint companies, employing ports in Jordan and Syria and all vehicles under the two companies' disposal. In addition, he said, financial and administrative affairs pertaining to the two companies were also discussed.

Ministry suggests switch to summer time on April 3rd

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources has sent a recommendation to Prime Minister Zaid Rifai that summer time in Jordan this year start on April 3 when clocks are to put forward 60 minutes. Adopting summer time in Jordan between April and October each year is bound to boost trade and economic activity and save energy consumption, the Ministry of Energy said.

In 1985, when Jordan adopted the summer and winter time system, the country saved JD 1 million in fuel expenses, according to figures released by the Ministry of Energy.

Political activists urge summit to unify stands

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Democratic Unionist Group has appealed to the leaders of Arab and Islamic nations meeting in Kuwait to do all they can to end the state of paralysis and to resolve the differences among their nations.

A statement, which the group sent to Kuwait where the leaders are meeting, said that the summit should work towards liberating the will of the Islamic people from foreign domination and that the leaders ought to take decisions free of all external influences.

Any meeting at the summit level between Muslims or Arabs would not have any credibility unless serious action is taken to liberate the holy shrines in Jerusalem, because Islam is the religion of struggle for the restoration of holy places and Islam is the religion of freedom, the statement said. It said that any one trying to stifle freedom and democracy among the Arab and

Islamic nations is helping to enhance the Zionist presence.

Gulf war

The statement said that the credibility of the Islamic summit remains in balance as long as the Iran-Iraq conflict is going on and the fighting is continuing in Lebanon and Afghanistan and in other Arab and Islamic countries. The Gulf conflict has become a source of pain and continual tragedy for the Arabs and Muslims and a continuous bleeding of resources and efforts, the statement continued.

The statement called on the Islamic conference to remain neutral and not to favour either superpower or to get involved in their activities and their conflicts. The statement was signed by 38 members of the group which includes doctors, lawyers, pharmacists and other prominent figures in Jordan's public life.

PSD takes steps to make valley roads safer for picnickers

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) has banned all lorries with a load capacity of two or more tonnes from travelling to the Jordan Valley through the Salt Zay junction and via Na'ur Umm Al Basatin junction from eight until 10 a.m.

A PSD statement issued on Saturday also banned such lorries from coming up to Amman from the Jordan Valley through Al

Rameh Kafraim junction between four and eight in the evening.

The ban applies only on Fridays when these roads are often congested with vacationers and to prevent problems and accidents, the statement said. The PSD statement also said that lorries should not be used for transporting people on picnics, adding that those violating the traffic regulations will be prosecuted.

Doctors take a stand against the arms race, nuclear weapons

AMMAN (Petra) — A group of 25 prominent physicians and specialists in Jordan have issued a statement directed to all doctors and peace-loving nations calling on them to support efforts aimed at ridding the world of nuclear weapons.

The group, calling itself the constituent committee of Jordanian doctors for preventing nuclear wars, said that the world is now facing the gravest danger ever as a result of the presence of huge arsenals of nuclear arms in different parts of the globe. The statement said that people of different backgrounds and various

societies and faiths have been expressing their abhorrence of nuclear threat and demanding that measures be taken to save the world from the nuclear arms race and all forms of nuclear threats.

The statement requested all peace-loving nations and groups of all countries to support the efforts being made to ban the use of nuclear power war. It also urged all doctors and physicians to spread awareness among the public about the grave consequences of nuclear conflicts and to help publish material in the information media explaining the reasons behind this objective.

New company to manufacture components for electricity sector

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) the Irbid District Electricity Company and the Jordan Electricity Company on Saturday signed documents for establishing a joint company to manufacture parts and equipment used in electricity production and distribution operations.

Director general of the JEA's unit for manufacturing poles and electric appliances, Mr. Amin Abu Hileh, said that the new company will produce components and different appliances needed for electricity expansion projects in the Kingdom. The company, he said, will set up different workshops and plants to produce the materials.

Cement company obtains JD 12m guaranteed loan from local consortium

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government on Saturday guaranteed a JD 12 million loan for the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) obtained from a financial consortium led by the Arab Bank.

Cost cutting

The loan is said to be the last in a recent series of government measures to adjust the financial situation of the public share-holding company following its takeover of the troubled South Cement Factory Company (SCC).

The consortium offered the company a 24-month grace period for the repayment of the seven-year loan at 9.5 per cent interest.

Marketing problems and a sharp decline in world cement prices were responsible for heavy losses incurred by the originally export-oriented SCC, prompting a government decision in 1985 to merge the five-year old company with the JCFC.

Following the merger, the new company granted its share holders 15.5 per cent in free shares, while the SCC compensated its share holders with JD 500 for each JD 1 invested.

JCFC share holders are now guaranteed six per cent annual dividends and the new company's shares went on the Amman Financial Market's listings Saturday after suspension during the merger.

As part of the government measures to bale out the JCFC, the company has also been exempted from paying production fees and value added tax. The government had also decided to lend the new company JD 57.5 million free of interest over the period between 1986 and 1990. Interest on that loan would have reached at least JD 23 million if the company had to resort to borrowing from commercial banks.

The JCFC-SCC merger, according to the company's director general Khalid Thaher, allowed for major cuts in administrative and industrial expenditures of around JD 4.75 million in 1986 compared with 1985 expenditure.

The merger is also said to help lower the plant's production cost and increase the company's competitiveness in the cement market. The company will also cut in costs by running the most efficient of the furnaces in both plants.

Dr. Thaher said that the government was the party to shoulder the bulk of the financial burden resulting from the merger. Economists interviewed by the Jordan Times said that the move by the government to rescue troubled companies, whether private or public, meant heavy burdens on the treasury and consequently on tax payers.

"The taxes we supposedly pay in return for services from the government are being used to save ill-advised failing projects," one economist said. He explained that the government move "may help few hundred investors in both companies, but it hurts the general public interest."

The two cement plants production capacity is estimated

at 3.5 million tonnes a year, out of which 1.6 million is taken by the local market. Nearly half of the two million tonne surplus will be exported to Egypt under an agreement signed recently between the two governments. Jordan is also expected to export 250,000 tonnes to Saudi Arabia this year under an agreement with the Saudi government.

Cement roads

A plan under study by the Ministry of Public Works is to start using cement instead of the traditional asphalt in road construction, is seen as another practical outlet for the cement surplus. Although more expensive to build, concrete roads are known to be more durable than traditional asphalt roads.

Informed sources said the government has contracted an Indian construction firm to build a concrete road in the Kingdom.

The loan agreement on Saturday was signed on the government side by Finance Minister Hanna Odeh and Central Bank of Jordan Governor Hussein Qasem. JCFC Chairman of the Board Ziad Annab and Mr. Thaher signed the agreement as well as the representatives of the 17 banks and financial establishments providing the loan.



The Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) board and government officials sign a JD 12 million loan agreement on Saturday with representatives of 17 banks and financial institutions (Photo by Yusef Al Allan)

U.N. team arrives to study conditions of Arab workers in occupied territories

AMMAN (Petra) — A United Nations fact-finding mission entrusted with investigating the conditions of Arab workers in the occupied Arab territories arrived in Amman on Saturday for a four-day visit to Jordan.

The two member delegation is on a tour of countries in the region and has been instructed to hold talks with officials and to meet

representatives of different organisations, trade and labour unions.

The delegation members are due to hold meetings with Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan, representatives of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs, the Royal Commission on Jerusalem Affairs, the Amman

Chamber of Industry, the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions and other organisations. The delegation will be investigating the conditions of Arab workers and will gather information about Palestinian Arabs living and working under Israeli rule.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Employment committee to meet Tuesday

AMMAN (Petra) — A higher ministerial committee entrusted with solving unemployment in the country will hold a meeting on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali. During the meeting the committee will study and evaluate proposals submitted by the concerned committees to remedy the unemployment problem.

University scraps thesis system

AMMAN (J.T.) — The council of deans at the University of Jordan has decided to cancel the thesis system for post graduate students preparing for their M.A. or M.Sc. degrees and candidates from now will sit for a comprehensive examination to determine their eligibility for the degree. The council said that the comprehensive examination should cover all matters to test the candidates' eligibility and knowledge. Students who pass the B.A. degree with 75 per cent grade can sit for the M.A. or M.Sc. comprehensive examination, according to the regulations.

Western film expert to give lecture

AMMAN (J.T.) — The American Centre on Wednesday Jan. 28, at 7:00 p.m., presents Dr. James Cory, Fulbright professor of English Literature at Yarmouk University, in a lecture on the significance of the American Western as a cinematic genre. Dr. Cory has taught Western literature and film courses in the United States for a number of years. His lecture will be accompanied by an American film institute documentary about Westerns.

Court sentences man for possession

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced Hosni Mohammad Al Sawi to five years imprisonment and fined him JD 500 for hashish possession. The general military governor endorsed the sentence.

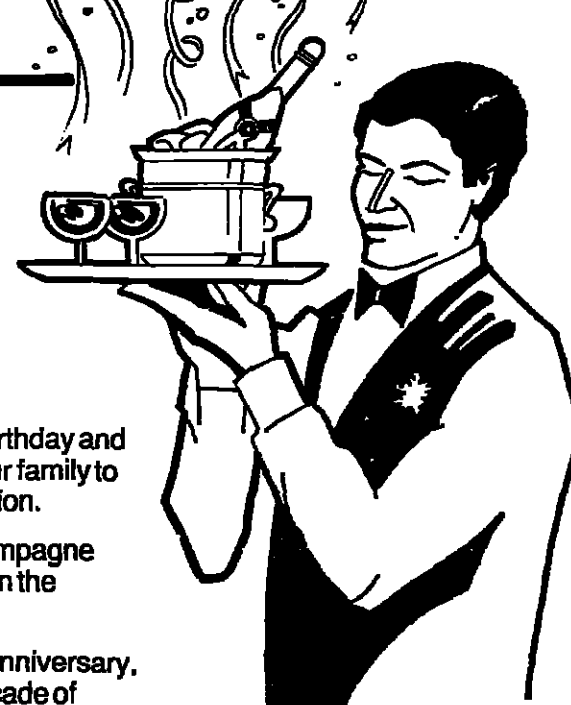
Man gets 1½ years for acquiring hashish

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced Hassan Mohammad Ali Abdul Tawwab to one and a half years in prison for the acquisition of hashish. The general military governor endorsed the sentence.

Jordan invited to conference on housing

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has received an invitation to take part in the 7th international conference on housing in the Islamic World, scheduled to be held in Cairo, Egypt, March 1. The six-day conference will discuss means of promoting cooperation between Muslim countries in the housing field.

CHAMPAGNE
AND
CAKE -
ON THE
HOUSE



Tomorrow is our birthday and we invite you and your family to join us in the celebration.

We're serving champagne and birthday cake - on the house.

Join us in our fifth anniversary, celebrating half a decade of dedicated service. We would like to have a party in your honor - the Marriott style.

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One way to peace

IN view of his reputation as an acknowledged supporter and admirer of the state of Israel, and that his tour in the area was inspired by the visit to Australia last October by Israeli President Herzog, it was comforting to hear Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke say on the eve of his arrival here that he planned to listen and merely ask what Australia could do for the cause of peace in the Middle East. While making no pretensions that his trip would involve the submission of any diplomatic initiatives, the Australian prime minister nevertheless expressed his country's strong desire to achieve peace in the area and subscribed to the policy of granting the Palestinian people the right to self-determination through the implementation of the U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

In welcoming Prime Minister Bob Hawke to our country, we add our voice to those others which call for a more positive and even-handed role for Australia in the search for peace in this region. The fact that Mr. Hawke's Labour government enjoys a particularly warm and friendly relations with Israel makes us think that perhaps Australia could play an important role in any attempt to bridge the gap between the various parties to the Palestinian conflict. This Australia could do best, we think, by convincing its friend Israel that there is only one way for peace and that is by accommodating the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and by changing its obdurate and arrogant policies vis-a-vis the occupied territories.

It is true that Australia is a far away country and effectively removed from the heat of the Middle East crisis; but these very qualities could give Australia a better and a more balanced perspective on the issues that divide Arab and Jew in the Middle East. Seen from this light, Mr. Hawke's current visit in the area could assume a greater importance than originally intended. In response to Mr. Hawke's readiness to listen to us and ask us about the ways Australia could advance the cause of peace in the Middle East, we humbly ask him to carry with him the Jordanian principled message to the rest of the countries he wishes to visit and above all to his own people and government. We don't expect the Israeli stance on peace in the Middle East to change after the visit of Mr. Hawke to that country. The Israeli position on the Palestinian conflict is stone-hard and it does not seem to be amenable to change by friendly and diplomatic persuasion. But we do expect and hope that as a result of his talks here, the Australian prime minister will see the story from Arab side as it really is, and not as Israel likes to tell it.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Iran shuns peace calls

IRAN'S refusal to attend the forthcoming session of the Islamic Summit and its announcement that it will not abide by any of the summit's decisions together with its rejection of the recent initiative for peace put forward by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, come as no surprise. All these constitute a continuation of the negative position which Iran has adopted since the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war. It also represents despicement of the Islamic and Arab efforts aimed at putting an end to the six year war and at unifying Arab and Muslim efforts to counter the challenges facing Arabs and Muslims. It is regrettable that Iran does not feel the burden of wasting Arab and Muslim efforts, at a time when Arabs and Muslims have political objectives that need urgent and united attention. On top of these is the continued Israeli occupation of Arab territories and its expansionist policies in the region. The Israeli aggression does not threaten the Arab World only, it threatens the Muslim World as well. The great objective of liberating the holy Arab city of Jerusalem should unify all Arab and Muslim efforts and should serve as a motivation for all Muslims to unify their ranks to liberate the Holy City.

Al Dustour: Iran continues aggression

AT a time when the Muslim countries foreign ministers are preparing for convening the Islamic summit, due to be held in Kuwait on Monday. While the Iran-Iraq war has been placed on top of the conference's agenda, Iran has announced in advance its rejection of any decisions which might be taken at the conference and its adherence to its position on continuing this destructive war indefinitely. Tehran rulers are rejecting the Iraqi call for peace, at a time when they know well that Iraq's call for peace with Iran did not come out of weakness, but from strength and might, which have been proved by the Iraqi army's repulsion of the repeated Iranian attacks and the heavy losses they inflicted on invading Iranian forces. Thus the Iranians have revealed their ill-harboured intentions against Muslims and Islam. The Iranian intransigent position and the escalation of war at a time when Muslim leaders will meet to put an end to this destructive war is a flagrant departure from the Islamic fold and position. This obstinate position of Iran, which comes on the eve of the 5th Islamic summit, warrants that Arabs and Muslim leaders should adopt a firm stand towards the Iranian aggressors. Such a stand should provide for increasing the isolation of the Iranian regime, in addition to exposing its policies and imposing penalties on it so that it goes back to logic and accepts the domination of rules of Islamic legislation to end this tragic war.

Sawi Al Shaab: Israel opposes peace

RECENT Israeli political moves are aimed at aborting the efforts to convene an international peace conference in the Middle East, after noting that such efforts have gathered momentum in the European arena. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir describes these efforts, which are now gaining international support, as an attempt to impose a solution on Israel. Deputy Israeli Prime Minister, Shimon Peres, now in London for talks with British officials, tries to place obstacles in the face of the conference and contests the conference's ability to formulate and result in a final settlement to the Middle East conflict. Shamir, who could not hide the Israeli position that opposes the establishment of peace and stability in this region, said Israel was not willing to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, which, he said, are part of "Eretz Israel". He added that settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict can only be achieved through direct negotiations. Shamir's statements, hence, make it clear that the future of the occupied Arab territories is detainable before hand by Shamir and that the Israeli prime minister refuses any negotiations on his government's decision.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

1986 yields moderate growth, lower dependency

IN the past, economists and decision-makers used to wait for five months before receiving the national accounts document prepared and issued by the Department of Statistics, and up to eight months before having a final balance of payments account issued by the Central Bank. This year the Department of Statistics finalised and made available the national account documents for 1986 in the middle of January, which is quite an achievement and a pleasant surprise.

Perhaps the document is not 100 per cent accurate, but who said that five more months will make it much more accurate? The national statistics are meant to give timely indicators to help in decision making in both the public and private sectors. These indicators, accurate as they may be, would be meaningless if they were produced too late.

In the zero inflation rate environment that Jordan had experienced in 1986 — thanks to the recession — figures and growth rates in current prices reflect constant prices as well, without any adjustment.

A quick review of the account indicates that gross domestic product at cost value in 1986 was JD 1400.2 million, a growth of 2.4 per cent, while at market prices, i.e., after adding net indirect taxes, it

was JD 1613.6 million, a growth of 2.6 per cent. This is an indication that indirect taxation was ahead of growth, while direct taxation was behind. National income stagnated at JD 1420.5 million, less than 0.5 per cent growth over 1985, while disposable income shrank by one percentage point.

Further analysis reveals that consumption declined by 3 per cent, while fixed capital formation decreased by 1.8 per cent. At the same time both imports and exports of goods and services were down. Exports by 5.2 per cent and imports by 12.6 per cent.

Local savings were JD 252.8 million, almost 60 per cent of gross capital formation. The balance must have been financed by borrowing abroad.

It is quite impressive to notice that the private sector managed to consume 6.2 per cent less despite the population growth rate of 4 per cent, while the government boosted its expenditure on consumption by 8 per cent.

On the other hand the private sector almost doubled its savings from JD 200 million in 1985 to JD 357 million in 1986. By contrast, the public sector's savings dropped from JD 18 million in 1985 to negative savings of JD 104 million in 1986.

The distribution of the domestic economic surplus was further altered in favour of salaries and wages, which are estimated to reach JD 738.5 million, a growth of 7.2 per cent, and a share of 58.2 per cent against 55.4 per cent in the previous year. By contrast, income from ownership — agricultural, industrial, financial, and real estate — amounted to JD 531 million, a decline of 4 per cent, and a share of 42 per cent, against 45 per cent in the previous year, an indication that the burden of recession is falling mainly on the shoulders of investors and entrepreneurs while workers are improving their share of the cake.

Incoming remittances from expatriates, minus outgoing remittances of guest workers, reached JD 366 million, a surprising jump of 18 per cent, which is mainly due to a shift from moneychangers to the banking system. Remittances through moneychangers are not accounted for.

This growth of remittances was more than sufficient to offset the increase of interest paid on external loans, thus allowing gross national product (GNP) to grow at 3.7 per cent, 1.1 per cent faster than the growth in GDP. GNP growth was in line with the set target in the five year development plan for 1986.

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Congressmen question if Shultz is in charge of foreign policy

By Michael Posner
 Reuters

WASHINGTON — The latest revelation in the Iran arms scandal, that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) secretly conducted talks with Iranians last month on exchanging arms for hostages, is raising fresh concerns in Congress over who is in charge of U.S. foreign policy.

Some members of Congress are questioning why Secretary of State George Shultz has remained in office during more than 18 months while administration officials secretly carried out major foreign policy initiatives against his wishes.

The disclosure that secret U.S.-Iran talks took place after a public declaration by President Reagan that he had ordered a halt to the covert Iran arms op-

eration, was made by Shultz himself during a three-hour closed door meeting of the House of Representatives foreign affairs committee on Wednesday, according to congressional sources.

The disclosure amounted to the latest bombshell episode in the affair over arms sales to Iran and diversion of profits to U.S.-backed anti-government rebels in Nicaragua that has produced the biggest crisis of the Reagan administration.

Several congressional investigations are under way and the chairman of a select Senate investigating committee, Hawaii Democrat Daniel Inouye, told reporters his committee would look into the new revelations.

Some members of Congress familiar with Shultz's testimony

said privately they were wondering why he did not resign when he found out the CIA was continuing talks last month after they had been ordered stopped.

"I'm surprised he has stayed on," a Democratic congressional source who was at the hearing told Reuters on condition he was not identified. "No question, he has been a good soldier."

He said both Republicans and Democrats on the committee have been on Shultz's side but feel "he has been cut out, not included in the loop" of the foreign policy decision-making regarding Iran policy.

After the Iran arms affair erupted in November, Reagan had ordered no new arms deals with Iranians and put Shultz in charge of Iran policy which had been conducted covertly through



George Shultz
 the White House national security council.
 But as the testimony revealed, congressional sources said,

apparently Shultz — even since November — was left in the dark about many developments.

A Republican congressman who also requested anonymity said if he had been secretary of state and the administration had taken on a major foreign policy initiative without his approval, he would have resigned.

"I just get the impression that Shultz is distancing himself from the whole adventure," he said. "I don't know why he does stay on."

According to congressional sources, U.S. officials met secretly with Iranian contacts in Europe on December 6 with the approval of Shultz.

It was not clear why Shultz authorised the meeting, although the New York Times said it was to break off further channels of communications.

According to congressmen at the hearing, Shultz said he was astonished to find the Iranians had brought to the meeting a full agenda that included demands to purchase more U.S. arms and an exchange of hostages, including Americans held in Lebanon.

After Shultz ordered an end to the contacts, according to the sources hearing his testimony, he discovered the CIA was still conducting talks.

At this point, sources said an outraged Shultz went to Reagan — who apparently was unaware of the talks — to order them stopped.

A congressional source told Reuters that Shultz told Reagan what had been going on and the president was "flicked off" and agreed with the secretary of state contacts should end.

Soviets appear to seek Afghan victory through negotiations

By Andrew Rosenthal
 The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan leader Najib talks about allowing political activity outside his Marxist party. Kremlin officials speak increasingly of their desire to get out of Afghanistan's bloodletting.

Nearly nine years after the Marxist revolution in Afghanistan, the Soviet Union and its Afghan allies appear eager to win through negotiation what they have failed to achieve with the sword.

But their avowed flexibility seems to have strict limitations and their overtures have attracted only a small percentage of the guerrillas fighting Soviet and Afghan troops.

Najib's programme of "national reconciliation," which bears the stamp of Mikhail S. Gorbachev, faces the same factional, tribal and religious problems that have divided Afghanistan for centuries. As the fourth man to run this nation since an April 1978 revolution brought Marxists to power, Najib must juggle not only domestic problems, but the demands of his Soviet allies as well.

During a visit to Kabul from Moscow, foreign reporters were carefully shepherded by Afghan officials and there was no chance to meet with guerrilla leaders.

The reporters were informed that the Afghan leader, a non-practising medical doctor who uses only one name, prefers to be called Najib, rather than Najibullah, which had been used since he took over last year.

The trip revealed a military and political situation that has changed little since the Soviet forces moved into Afghanistan in December 1979.

Kremlin troops have scored some major victories since then, but diplomats in Kabul and guerrilla sources in neighbouring Pakistan say the Muslim guerrillas are inflicting mounting casualties. In a situation reminiscent of Vietnam, the insurgents are able to deny the government control over large regions.

Western diplomats also say the Soviets appear to have a new respect for the guerrillas' anti-aircraft capabilities, which Afghan officials ascribe to the supply of sophisticated U.S. Stinger missiles and British-made Blowpipe rockets.

Kabul residents say Soviet and Afghan military flights have changed their patterns, going much higher or lower than before and using more missile-deflecting flares.

Najib's attempt to establish a ceasefire Jan. 15 was reported in ruins within 12 hours. The main guerrilla leaders vowed to fight on until the estimated 115,000 Soviet soldiers leave Afghanistan.

Government reports say about 5,000 guerrillas have surrendered since the government's call for reconciliation. But Afghan officials estimate the guerrilla force at 70,000 fighters and Western diplomats say it could be even larger.

Along with the ceasefire has come a call for internal negotiations, an attempt to enlist Islam in the government's struggle for control, and an offer of amnesty and coalition government.

These concepts are couched in language that makes it clear the Soviets and Afghans intend to maintain the ruling party's dominance, and their conditions for a negotiated settlement haven't changed.

The Soviets say they won't

withdraw until the United States, Pakistan and the guerrilla leaders guarantee that the fighting will stop first.

U.S. and Pakistani officials also have launched a new round of diplomacy aimed at ending the Afghan fighting and the Soviet military presence.

U.S. Undersecretary of State Michael Armacost visited Islamabad on Jan. 19 to meet with Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan. The trip overlapped with a visit to the Pakistani capital by Soviet first deputy foreign minister Anatoly Kovalev.

Kovalev said after his visit that Khan would come to Moscow to continue the talks. But the Soviet official did not say if the trip would

take place before the resumption of the U.N.-mediated, indirect talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan in Geneva next month.

After a recent visit to Afghanistan, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze said a withdrawal timetable could be negotiated. But Najib said later the timetable was already set and "is not a concrete question for negotiation."

The promised amnesty decree has yet to be issued, and it already has been limited to exclude those convicted of "terrorism" or "sabotage," categories that could be used against guerrilla leaders.

In trying to identify his government with Islam, Najib is targeting one of the factors uniting the otherwise fractious guerrilla

forces. The Kabul government also has sought to enlist the aid of pro-Soviet tribal leaders in Pakistan to divide the opposition.

Najib has promised that Islam will be the state religion in this 99 per cent Muslim nation. To reinforce his point, he went to a mosque last year with then-President Babrak Karmal, who gave up the party leadership in May and is now in retirement.

At a Kabul news conference, Najib said Islamic parties would be allowed to exist "as long as they obey rules."

But he didn't say what those rules are, and it remains to be seen how much religious participation the party will allow.

Najib also said his Marxist

People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan does not seek a monopoly on power and that other parties will be tolerated.

However, Najib has refused to say if he would allow them to share control of the military and security organs.

And despite Soviet talk of a future withdrawal, Kabul is ringed by garrisons of Soviet infantry, armour and helicopter gunships.

Najib and his leading officials have adopted key phrases, goals and methods of Gorbachev's new generation of Soviet leaders, talking about reconstruction, accelerating and streamlining the economy, curtailing the bureaucracy and adopting "new ways of thinking."

Central American peace effort makes no progress

By Reid G. Miller
 The Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica — Buffeted by repeated failures in its attempts to mediate a peaceful settlement to the conflicts of Central America, the so-called Contadora group suffered another setback this week.

As before, the multinational mediating effort failed to bring together the very countries it has been courting for the last four years — leftist Nicaragua and its pro-American neighbours.

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who lent his prestige to the latest effort, concluded that the divided countries of Central America "do not have the political will to resolve their conflicts."

Perez de Cuellar made the assessment Wednesday after he and the secretary-general of the

Organisation of American States, Joao Baena Soares, completed a two-day tour of Central America with the foreign ministers of the eight Contadora nations.

The tour took them to Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala.

The visiting emissaries, dubbed the "group of 10," began their tour following a preliminary meeting in Panama last weekend. They ended it in Mexico, where they spent most of Wednesday analysing results.

"I have not encountered what I would call true and sincere political will to eliminate differences," Perez de Cuellar told reporters in Mexico City. "There can be no solution while there is no good faith."

In a separate, joint report on their tour, the eight Contadora ministers said they also found that

the "necessary political will is lacking" to achieve a settlement of the region's problems.

But the Contadora ministers said they would nevertheless renew their attempt to bring the five Central American nations back to the bargaining table, with "a special call to the United States" to join in the talks.

The U.S. government has refused involvement in such talks. The visiting diplomats heard virtually nothing new in their tour of Central America. Instead, they found the five countries still

locked into the bargaining positions that brought the Contadora negotiations to a halt last June.

The presidents of Costa Rica, Honduras and El Salvador told the visitors that peace could come to the region only if Nicaragua agreed to democratic reforms

leading to free elections. Nicaragua demanded a halt to what it called U.S. aggression and suggested a series of bilateral accords with its neighbours, an idea they rejected in favour of a regional treaty incorporating their demands.

Unlike Costa Rica, Honduras and El Salvador, the fifth country in the region, Guatemala, does not share a common boundary with Nicaragua and has adopted a policy of "active neutrality."

The peace talks were initiated in January 1983 by Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela and Panama, which became known as the Contadora group after the name of the Panamanian resort island on which they held their first meeting.

They were joined in the mediating effort more than a year ago by the so-called support group of Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Peru.

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Wrestling camels replace Roman athletes in ancient Ephesus

By Paul Bolding

REUTERS
SELÇUK, Turkey — Bulldozer II and the beautiful Quiltmaker faced off, jaws bound to stop biting, in an ancient arena where Roman gladiators once struggled in combat.

The camel wrestling season is in full swing in Turkey.

Some 5,000 cheering fans gathered recently to watch the bizarre sport at the stadium of ancient Ephesus, one of the major Greco-Roman cities of Asia Minor and now an open-air museum.

With exotic names like Emerald, Black Lightning and New World — or more prosaic ones such as Bulldozer and Number 3 — the beasts are

goaded into struggling with each other until referees call the result. That could be a win if one crushes the other into the camel equivalent of a submission, or a draw if they reach stalemate or one is injured.

The spectators, many with side bets on the outcome, make known their views with boos and cheers.

The day is replete with ritual. The title of Aga, a kind of honorary president for the year, is auctioned to farmer Ismail Sarpkaya for 510,000 liras (\$670), for which he gets a plaque, a small brass camel and the right to strut about the ring.

"As Aga I am responsible for the organisation," he told Reuters. "There are seven referees, five at the table and two

on the field and we make sure the camels in each bout have the same weight."

Sarpkaya, a ruddy-faced farmer, explained that not only wrestling is involved: "Last year we voted Yorganci (Quiltmaker) the most beautiful camel but we will not have the election this year."

Much prestige hangs on the outcome of the bouts and irate owners often protest to the judges and to each other, with crash-helmeted police sometimes called in to separate them.

All the wrestling camels are male. Topped by colourfully decorated packs, each is led into the ring by its owner, often with a female camel ahead to increase its interest in the vent.

Owners and officials crowd around, including a team of seven "urgancis" — pullers off — for each camel, who stand ready to separate them. The urgancis play a crucial part in what must be one of the world's more unusual sponsorships: Each has a Pepsi-Cola decal on his regulation red or blue jerkin.

Signs and caps with the logo of camel cigarettes also make an appearance.

The animals have their jaws bound to stop them biting each other and the referees try to stop them doing serious damage. "Unfortunately one broke his neck last year but mostly we do what we can to stop them hurting each other," he added.

A key part of the two-day festival is the drinking and camaraderie that go with what is virtually an all-male pastime.

Camelmen, as they call themselves, caroused until nearly dawn in two bars on the main strip in Selçuk, the town close to the ruins of Ephesus. Most were drinking raki, the traditional Turkish aniseed spirit.

In one bar, young belly dancers gyrated on the tables until the early hours, to the wall of an unmelodious pipe and drum trio.

The bar is run by Efsan Ugurolu, himself the proud owner of a competitor called Ephesus. "It is fun. It is interesting. Then there is the friendship and the sport. You might win 100,000 liras (\$130)

but that is not the main thing," he said.

Ephesus, at 23, is nearing the end of his wrestling career. "They start at three or four and go on to around 25," said Ugurolu with some regret.

After that, it seems, they are over the hump.

The main heavyweight bout of the Selçuk tournament and the one most of the crowd had been waiting for was quickly over. Referees called a draw when Bulldozer II, after quickly getting on top, gave Quiltmaker a bloody nose.

But with 10 to 15 tournaments each winter season in this area of western Turkey alone, the old rivals will be soon be back in the ring.

Look behind the veil

By Rima Kamal Damen

IT has been a practice among many Jordanians to judge a female person's religious tendencies by her outward appearance. A woman with a headscarf or veil is in the eyes of many citizens one that has attained a high standard of virtue, but another with no headscarf is looked upon by other women in our society with much non-confidence and mistrust.

As to this, I can only wonder whether true religion should be judged merely by appearance and pretence? And I dare ask who is responsible for associating religion and faith with a particular outlook or dress? I also must point out that as much as we are concerned about and continue to warn against excessive freedom for women that might encourage them to disassociate themselves from their families and their natural environment, we should equally warn the society against a tendency among women towards assuming insignificant outward appearances like donning a headscarf or veil as the only means of attaining supreme religious objectives.

I must indeed point out also that such tendencies about veils are really dangerous because they give Islam a mere outward material interpretation rather than help women exercise a meaningful and righteous duty towards their society. Islam, it should be noted, calls for actual good deeds by which every one of us is judged in the end.

The object of this article is not to cast doubt on Islamic forms of dress, but rather to emphasise that it is decent, simple and traditional dress for men and women that is indeed regarded as respectful and of good and acceptable taste in society.

Therefore, it is important to link the outward appearance of a woman to her inward feelings and tendencies reflected in actions and

deeds. Outward appearances which fail to be in harmony with or to conform to one's own actions, would be like a fasting Muslim in Ramadan whose actions are incompatible with the meaning and objectives of the fast.

Some Jordanian women who take to wearing the scarf or the veil on the head or face sometimes delve into detailed and futile discussion over what is good or what actions are taboo in Islam like the subject of choosing types of dresses or wearing jewellery, forgetting about the real objective of religion which is doing good to others. Islam requires from all women to do good to others rather than talk nonsense; to do useful work rather than waste time and effort in discussing marginal and trivial affairs.

In short, I can sum up my views in the following points:

— Islam is a religion that encourages meaningful and useful work, and therefore there can be no good at all in a person whose actions contradict his or her general appearance.

— If the veil is being used to show a woman's deep adherence to religion and the Islamic faith, it is an acceptable and good practice provided that her actions reflect her general appearance.

— Women should stop being hesitant about wearing a veil or scarf because it is not the most important thing in Islam. Islam is an integrated and comprehensive religion that calls for the purity of soul and good deeds before giving attention to outward appearances.

All I am seeking here is to urge women to abandon excessive concern about outward appearances and start concentrating on the core or religion, and means of attaining its real objectives.

The above article appeared recently in the Jordan Times Arabic sister Al Rai.

Art imitates death in New York artist's studio

By Robert Basler

REUTERS
NEW YORK — Violence in art is not new — armies in battle and saints in agony have been depicted on canvas for centuries — but a New York painter has added her own twist, immortalising the city's most gruesome crimes.

Artist Sandy Straus depicts the violent and their victims, the hapless subjects of tabloid headlines. When a young woman is strangled in Central Park, when a currency trader is shot dead by a homeless woman, when slanders mar the face of a lovely model, Straus heads for the easel.

It is, she concedes, "work that

is really on the edge."

Sometimes, Straus picks an obscure event notable only for its oddity — she did three versions of "man misses rat, shoots son" — but mostly her imagination is captured by the tales of violence that New Yorkers follow for weeks in the news media.

Stories such as the attempted suicide of the president of the city's borough of Queens, Donald Manes, during a political scandal are exactly what Straus looks for. Her painting of Manes' slashed wrist dominates an area of her studio in lower Manhattan.

Her prices range from a few hundred to a few thousand dollars, and she says she has sold a

half dozen pictures so far.

One, showing a dismembered subway murder victim, went for \$2,800, and the owner of a gallery which handles her work says he has rejected offers for her painting because they were not from respected collectors.

"It's not going to just anybody," says dealer Steven Style of Sensory Evolution Art Gallery. "We're waiting for a very good collector ... If it's just a housewife in New Jersey who just wants it as a novelty, we're not interested."

A soft-spoken native of Nebraska with grown children, Straus has been painting for years, but

she was moved to do her first major crime painting 16 months ago, showing the sadomasochistic murder of a Norwegian fashion student.

Then she began doing almost nothing but crimes. "I want to make some sort of statement about what happens in our world today," she says. "About man's inhumanity, about good and evil. About how tenuous things can be."

Straus' paintings take several forms. Some incorporate the printed word with the visual image while others focus on the victim or the killer.

Still others, an ongoing series she calls "the scene of the crime,"

come largely from media accounts filtered through her imagination. Straus says she is seldom tempted to get more information from police or to visit a crime scene personally.

"I really love the photographs in the newspapers," she says, and she is particularly fond of the New York Post, a tabloid which often focuses on violent crimes.

Last May Straus painted every crime she found in the Post, even the most bizarre.

"I did one about a man who strangled a woman with a slinky toy. Then there was one about a couple who committed suicide after his graduate thesis was turned down," she says, adding that she found it necessary to take a break from the violence after that crime-filled month.

Straus' works vary in their realism. She calls her Manes painting "a study in shape and form and colour," but adds: "It's also pretty clear that it's a sliver of life."

Straus has consulted a lawyer to ensure that her use of news-

paper reportage poses no copyright problems. She seems less concerned about libel, and says her inclusion of a recently arrested murder suspect in her "portraits of murderers" series amounts to "artistic licence."

Straus herself hasn't been a crime victim since the time she was mugged in Chicago years ago, and she doesn't believe New Yorkers are especially obsessed with violence.

"Relatives and friends of mine from out of town seem to be more obsessed than people from New York," she says. "I think it's more of a fact of life in the city. People who live in a safer environment find it exotic, more fascinating."

Perhaps surprisingly, considering her interest in the Manes suicide attempt, Straus never bothered to paint the equally grim scene of his later, successful suicide with a kitchen knife in the heart.

"It just didn't hit my imagination," she shrugs.

Mexican magazines celebrate survival

It is a hard job for the Press in Mexico to bring truth to the people. Many magazines and newspapers in the country fall in this task, but David Gardner reports on the 10th anniversary of two radical publications which are a thorn in the side of the state.

MEXICO CITY — Mexico recently celebrated two remarkable press anniversaries: the 10th year of survival of the country's two most independent publications.

Proceso, a left-of-centre weekly magazine with little regard for Mexico's many political shibboleths, and Vuelta, a liberal monthly review relentless in its libertarian critique of Mexican public and cultural affairs, have been small but sharp thorns in the side of a regime used to a high level of state management of the media.

They have in common their emergence from the ruins of Mexico's last great adventure into independent journalism, Excelsior, the country's leading daily when it was edited from 1968 to 1976 by Mr. Julio Scherer, who founded and edits Proceso.

Nostalgic former contributors recall that under Mr. Scherer Excelsior collected probably the finest array of journalists and writers assembled in Mexico this century, making it during his tenure the leading daily in the Spanish-speaking world.

Pluralist and critical, from 1971 to 1976 it also published the cultural supplement Plural, edited by Mr. Octavio Paz, leading poet and essayist of Latin America and Mexico.

In July 1976, then president Mr. Luis Echeverria engineered a Machiavellian palace coup inside

the Excelsior co-operative against the Scherer group. Despite an outcry in Mexico, the U.S. and parts of Europe and Latin America, Mr. Scherer and Mr. Paz, who founded Vuelta, were forced to move on, carrying with them the newspaper's spark of independence.

Proceso is an eclectic magazine, beginning with Mr. Scherer himself. A man of great vitality and humour, with eyes which are penetrating and mischievous by turn, Don Julio, as he is known respectfully in the profession, does not so much edit as impel Proceso. Its staff work on a long leash, publishing pieces of widely varying length and often contradictory views.

They are combative breaking into areas most newspapers pass over such as corruption, justice, and the police, election frauds, the army and companies like Pemex, the state oil monopoly, and Televisa, the powerful private TV conglomerate, both of which are normally about as penetrable as the Kremlin.

Proceso cartoonists are devastatingly apposite and are among the few in the craft — which enjoys the widest margin of freedom in Mexican journalism — who openly dare to lampoon President Miguel de la Madrid and his ministers. Its columnists span the political spectrum.

This attempt to wrench public affairs from the private grasp of the all-embracing Institutional

Revolutionary Party (PRI), in power in one form or another since the triumph of the 1910-20 Mexican revolution, is where Proceso converges with Vuelta.

"What we want to do in all spheres is to criticise," explains Mr. Enrique Krauze, Vuelta's managing editor. "Since public life here is not public, this is necessary. What defines our criticism isn't so much that it is liberal, as that it tries to unite the knots of rhetoric," he argues.

In Mr. Paz's formulation, Vuelta's function is to provide "a free space" for imaginative writers and critical thought, between the PRI/government and the unreconstructed left of which the poet himself was once a standard-bearer.

Vuelta's stature comes in the first instance from its publication of literature: by established Latin American writers like Paz himself, Mario Vargas Llosa, Carlos Fuentes or the late Jorge Luis Borges; by their European peers like Italo Calvino, Milan Kundera or Ted Hughes; and through the regular featuring of new writers.

Other writers of world-renown such as Nobel Laureate Gabriel Garcia Marquez have kept away, presumably as uncomfortable with Mr. Paz's apostasy as he is with their sympathies for the Cuban revolution.

But what has carried Vuelta out of these confines and given it national impact here is unquestionably its vigorous espousal of democracy as an imperative for Mexico and its de facto one-party system.

Mr. Krauze, a writer of luminous prose who specialises in intellectual history, set this agenda with his influential 1983 essay for a Democracy Without Adjectives, now the title of a best-selling collection of his passionate democratic advocacy. Mr. Paz himself, long silent on Mexican politics, returned to the fray with a devastatingly measured reflection on the decadence of the ruling party entitled PRI, 1929-1983: Time Up.

"Democracy," says Mr.

Krauze, "is an idea which has given us sales." Vuelta's sales have doubled to around 15,000 since Mexico entered its worst financial and economic crisis for half a century in 1982, brought about largely by a lack of accountability.

Vuelta also launched a South American edition, three months ago, published in Buenos Aires and capitalising on the restoration of democracy in most of the Southern Cone. "We're all going back to basics," reading de Tocqueville," Mr. Krauze enthuses.

This has given Vuelta financial independence, beyond the reach of Mexico's most powerful advertiser, the state, which provides only a quarter of revenue but is in a position to make or break most publications. Proceso, for instance, has been denied state advertising since 1982, but has survived on an average weekly sale of around 85,000.

Around half these sales are regional, making Proceso "the only print media organ of a national character in Mexico," according to Mr. Jorge Castaneda, one of its columnists and a senior associate at the Carnegie endowment in Washington.

"It has more credibility than any other media outlet. In a country where nobody believes anything, most people believe Proceso," he argues. "But the fact that it only sells 85,000 in a population of 85 million shows how far the press in Mexico has got to go."

Mr. Scherer's own long-awaited entry in this year's best-sellers list, entitled Presidents, shows how far Proceso, at least, has already come.

The book of a privileged insider who has chosen to become an outsider, it is a deliberately literal transcription of selected encounters with the last four presidents which produces a surreal vision of the office itself, with its enormous power and capacity for whim, vanity and frivolity — Financial Times feature.

Romans' tempers rising over traffic

By Sarah Delaney

The Associated Press

ROME — Traffic police donned surgeon's masks this month to protect sickening exhaust fumes. And an irate magistrate threatened to close Rome's historic centre to traffic if the city did not adopt a plan to fight air pollution.

Rome's baroque church facades, medieval houses and ancient ruins are stained blacker each year with the soot and exhaust from the city's infamous traffic.

But the stronger calls each year for the city to close its historic centre to traffic still have not been taken up by the five-party coalition that governs the city.

City officials, led by Christian Democrat Mayor Nicola Signorile, say that would only worsen the problem in the "periferia," the vast outskirts of Rome where getting around is at least as difficult as it is downtown.

The white-gloved traffic police staged their protest last week to draw attention to the health hazard from the exhaust spewing from the endless stream of cars.

"We traffic police are perhaps more exposed, but everybody who works in the centre runs the same risk to their health," said Marco Clari, 30, who directs traffic at the busy Piazza Venezia.

On Tuesday, Judge Gianfranco Amendola threatened to call out the "carabinieri," or para-military police, to block traffic into the city centre if the city did not adopt a plan by Saturday to reduce pollution. But he later withdrew

the threat.

Several unions have been promoting "traffic-free day" on Nov. 28. They are asking Romans to leave their cars at home to see how well the city can move with public transportation that isn't hindered by private car traffic.

Signorile has said that experts are working on the problem, focusing instead on the creation of more pedestrian islands, pay parking lot and one-way main thoroughfares. However, no date has been set for finalisation of such a plan.

Special plans to deal with traffic-related problems have been going in an out of effect for years, beginning in 1955 with traffic police travelling with sound metres in an anti-noise pollution campaign.

During Rome's "Dolce Vita" period, the then-trendy Via Veneto was blocked to night traffic for a brief period.

The central Piazza Navona has remained closed off to traffic since 1968 and the Spanish Steps area (Piazza d'Espagne) since 1983.

But other "emergency" measures have had little success.

The protest by the traffic cops emphasised the dangers caused by the constant emission of exhaust fumes: As part of their demonstration, the white-masked officers set up pollution monitors at key intersections to point out to passers-by the poisons in the air they breathe.

They showed that at rush hour, carbon monoxide levels reach 500 parts per 1 million in downtown Rome, eight times the level considered hazardous to health.

Pharaoh's statue heads for Tennessee

By Hanna Hendawi

Reuters

MEET RAHINA, Egypt — A 3,000-year-old colossus of the Pharaohs Ramses II, known as Ramses the Great, is on its way from ancient Memphis to Memphis, Tennessee.

Antiquities experts are putting the final touches to the huge statue in Meet Rahina, south of the Cairo, which stands on the site of ancient Memphis, then the capital.

The 60-ton, eight-metre granite statue was discovered here in 1961, broken into more than 40 pieces. It lay partly submerged in water until last November, when restoration began.

Valued by Egypt's Antiquities Authority for insurance purposes at \$1.5 million, the statue has

been rebuilt at a cost of nearly \$100,000 granted by a U.S. company.

It is due to be shipped this month to Memphis, Tennessee, where it will join nearly 70 pieces already touring the United States in an exhibition about Ramses the Great.

Now on display in Jacksonville, Florida, they are due to go on to Memphis in mid-April. The Ramses II statue, the largest monument to leave Egypt in recent years, will be on show for four-and-a-half months.

Ramsey Naguib, who led the 23-man restoration team, said that because the statue was fragmented, engineers decided to rebuild it in three sections for easier transportation.

They will be carried on trailers to the Mediterranean port of Ale-

xandria, by ship to Savannah, Georgia, and by truck to Memphis, Naguib told Reuters.

"We have taken every measure and precaution to ensure its safety," Ahmed Kadry, chairman of the Antiquities Authority, told a news conference.

James Broughton, executive director of the exhibition at Memphis, said Lloyd's of London was covering the colossus, but refused to give details of the insurance package for security reasons.

Kadry said the Ramses exhibition in North America, which has already been to Canada, was expected to yield \$10 million in ticket sales.

"All the money will be 100 per cent dedicated to the cause of restoration of other Egyptian

monuments," Kadry said.

Memphis Mayor Richard Hackett told the news conference 100,000 tickets had been sold for the Ramses Exhibition, "the largest single tourist attraction in the history of our city." He said he expected 500,000 visitors.

Naguib said the colossus of Ramses II, who ruled Egypt from 1290 to 1224 B.C., might have been part of a small temple which also housed several smaller statues.

Wearing the crown of upper Egypt, the majestic statue depicts the king striding forward, left foot first, in the traditional pose of ancient Egyptian male figures.

Kadry said the colossus would go to The Netherlands after the Memphis exhibition before being brought back to Cairo.

وزارة الأشغال العامة
دائرة العطاءات الحكومية
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS
GOVERNMENT TENDERS DIRECTORATE

Addendum (1)
Subject: Central Tenders No. (11/87, 12/87)
AQABA BACK-ROAD PROJECT

1. The deadline for obtaining documents in Amman is Feb. 14th 1987.
2. The tenders shall be submitted to the Government Tender Directorate in Amman on Sat. Feb. 28th, 1987.

Deputy of Director of Government Tenders Directorate
Engineer Salim Quda

وزارة الأشغال العامة
دائرة العطاءات الحكومية
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS
GOVERNMENT TENDERS DIRECTORATE

ADVERTISEMENT
Central Tenders No. (11/87, 12/87)
AQABA BACK-ROAD PROJECT

It is expected that the Jordanian Government will receive loans from Saudi Fund for Development, to finance partially the above-mentioned project, and the Ministry of Public Works is hereby inviting bids from prequalified local, Arab and foreign companies and joint ventures according to the following:

(1)- Project Description:
The project consists of two sections:

Section (A) (Tender No. 11/87) which includes a separate grade interchange and 15 km. Main road connecting Wadi Yutum to the Spur Intersection, and 6 km. spur to the Coastal Highway. It also includes (6) bridges.
Approximate quantities: (4) mill. cu.m. earthwork and (20,000) cu.m. reinforced concrete.

Section (B) (Tender No. 12/87) which includes 11 km. of Main road ending at the Coastal Highway near Wadi 2, and the flood protection channel of Wadi 2, and an interchange.
Approximate quantities: (3) mill. cu.m. earthwork and (5,000) cu.m. reinforced concrete and (130,000) cu.m. Gabions.

(2)- The cost of the tender document will be a non-refundable sum of JD 1,000 for the first copy and JD 300 for the second copy.

(3)- The deadline for obtaining tender documents from the Ministry of Public Works in Amman is March 14th, 1987.

(4)- The tender is divided into two sections and award will be according to the decision of the Central Tenders Committee.
No stipulation or condition from any tenderer for the award of the two sections together will be accepted.

(5)- Tenders shall be submitted to the Government Tenders Directorate in Amman not later than 12:00 noon on Saturday, March 28th, 1987.

Chairman,
Central Tenders Committee
P.O. Box 1220

ADVERTISEMENT (3)
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR A SECRETARY

The UNESCO Regional Office for Education for the Arab States needs a secretary (Grade L 4/LS, approximate basic starting salary JD 3,000 per annum).

To be entrusted with the following responsibilities:

1. Drafting routine correspondence in Arabic & English
2. Keeping files & records.
3. Typing correspondence & publications.
4. Helping the regional advisor in population education in organising seminars, meetings & workshops, taking notes & transcribing them.

Qualifications & experience required

1. Secondary education (minimum).
2. Perfect knowledge of Arabic & English. Knowledge of French would be an asset.
3. Shorthand & typing in Arabic & English at standard speed.
4. Order, judgement, initiative, method & precision, sense of responsibility, capable of working under pressure.
5. Ability to work within a team.
6. Several years experience, preferably with international organisations.

Last day of applications 5th February 1987
Applications to be sent to: P.O. Box 2270, Amman

ADVERTISEMENT (3)

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- (b) proposing acquisition of periodicals, books and documentation facilities.
- (c) establishing and maintaining efficient record system
- (d) establishing annotated bibliographies, summaries and reviews.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED:

- (a) secondary education, recognised diploma in librarianship an advantage
- (b) several years experience in procedures and management of libraries
- (c) excellent knowledge of Arabic and good knowledge of English and French

Detailed applications should be sent to the following address:-

Director,
UNESCO Regional Office For Education
for the Arab States (UNEDBAS)
P.O. Box 2270
Amman.

Closing date is: 30 January, 1987.

Mandlikova takes Australian Open title from Navratilova

MELBOURNE (R) — Hana Mandlikova said she had beaten "a legend" when she defeated world number one Martina Navratilova Saturday to win her second singles crown at the \$1.7 million Australian Open.

"Beating Martina is like beating a legend," said second-seeded Mandlikova after she beat the defending champion and top seed 7-5, 7-6 in one hour and 35 minutes.

The 24-year-old Czechoslovak, who recently applied for Australian citizenship, took the second set tiebreak 7-1 to clinch victory and end a nine-match losing streak against the Czech-born American.

Navratilova drove a forehand return over the baseline to give Mandlikova victory on the first of five match points.

"Martina is the player I have nothing to lose against," Mandlikova told reporters after the match. "I returned extremely well today, especially on her second serve."

Navratilova, appearing in her 23rd Grand Slam final and chasing her fourth Australian Open singles crown, said she had difficulty finding her rhythm.

"It's the worst I've played in a final for a long time," she said. "The whole match I was struggling. I missed more first volleys today than in the whole tournament in singles, doubles and mixed doubles."

"I could never really get my confidence going. It was always an uphill battle."

Mandlikova, winner here in 1980, has now won four Grand Slam singles titles, including the 1981 French Open and a 1985 U.S. Open final win against Navratilova.

She had lost all nine of her subsequent matches against Navratilova before Saturday's

win.

The match was punctuated by eleven service breaks as both players struggled to find their range and rhythm.

Navratilova had looked listless from the start and Mandlikova capitalised on the American's poor volleying.

The American took an early 2-0 lead, breaking Mandlikova in the first game of the match.

But a break back for 2-2 was an early sign that the reigning Wimbledon and U.S. Open champion was struggling.

Mandlikova took the first set when Navratilova, uncharacteristically, double faulted on set point.

Navratilova had served for the set at 5-4 but, after three unforced volleying mistakes, was broken when Mandlikova shot a running forehand past her.

Mandlikova raced to a 3-0 lead in the second and then led 5-3 but was pegged back and taken to the tiebreak.

Navratilova made 24 unforced errors against Mandlikova's nine in the match.

Mandlikova said the win was special because of her decision to live in Australia after her marriage last year to Sydney restaurateur Van Sedlak.

"This country is special and it's a great welcome for me," she said. "The loss was a double blow for Navratilova, who Friday night lost a mixed doubles semi-final when she and American Paul Annacone were beaten by Sherwood Stewart and Zina Garrison."

Mandlikova stretched here career record against Navratilova

to seven wins from 30 matches. Navratilova had won the Australian title in 1981, 1983 and 1985.

"Beating Martina is like beating a legend. I respect her as player and a person and I've learned a lot from here," Mandlikova said.

Swedes win doubles

Swedes Stefan Edberg and Anders Jarryd beat Australians Laurie Warder and Peter Doohan to win the men's doubles final.

Edberg and Jarryd, the top seeds, scored a 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 win in a one hour and 48 minute centre court struggle, taking the tiebreak 7-3.

The win was a timely boost for Edberg, who plays Australia's Pat Cash in the men's singles final Sunday.

Doohan and Warder, the 16th seeds, had trouble returning the big serves and precise volleying of the Swedish pair.

In the singles final, defending champion Edberg hopes to avenge Sweden's Davis Cup final loss to Australia on the same court last month.

Cash, the tournament's eleventh seed, who Friday disposed of world number one Ivan Lendl to reach his first Grand Slam final, spearheaded the home side's victory.

"Sure I would like to get revenge," Edberg said after his semi-final win over Australian Wally Masur Friday.

Edberg, 21, said he was now playing better than in the Davis Cup and was on target to notch back-to-back wins.

Edberg's coach, Tony Pickard, said he expected his protégé to eventually take over as number one.

"He can go all the way," Pickard said. "But it's not something you can sit exams for. John McEnroe and Ivan Lendl both took time before reaching number one."

Arsenal loses in violent match

LONDON (R) — League leader Arsenal suffered its first defeat in 23 games when it was beaten 2-0 by Manchester United in a violent clash at Old Trafford.

The two smallest men on the field, Gordon Strachan and Terry Gibson, scored the goals that could lead to Arsenal losing the First Division lead it has held since mid-November when Everton, two points behind Arsenal, plays Nottingham Forest Sunday.

Third-placed Liverpool moved to within four points of Arsenal when Paul Walsh's first goal for three months and a 78th minute effort by Ian Rush sank bottom club Newcastle. Most of the action at Old Trafford, both good and bad, was confined to a 10-minute spell just before the hour.

David Rocastle was booked for lunging at Terry Gibson in the 50th minute and five minutes later it was striker Strachan for a goal which delighted the 51,000 crowd.

Two minutes later Rocastle fouled Norman Whiteside and then kicked the United midfielder, himself booked in the first half, while he lay on the ground. Rocastle was sent off.

Pandemonium broke out. Arsenal's Viv Anderson was booked for apparently throwing a

punch at Whiteside and both managers, George Graham of Arsenal and Alex Ferguson, rushed on to the field to join the melee.

Play eventually restarted and on the hour midfielder Paul Davis became the fifth Arsenal player to be booked when he seemed to strike Whiteside.

Gibson, playing his first full game since joining United a year ago, guaranteed three points for United with a goal in injury time.

Champion Liverpool struggled against a tight Newcastle defence until the 53rd minute when Walsh, whose place is under threat from Oxford's John Aldridge, drifted into space to head home Jan Molby's cross.

Rush put the issue beyond doubt 12 minutes from time when he stabbed home a Gary Gillespie knockdown for his 27th goal of the season.

Aldridge bade a disappointing farewell to Oxford — he joins Liverpool on Monday — failing to score as his side went down 3-1 to Watford.

Coventry also suffered a 3-1 home defeat as Tony Cottee scored a hat-trick for West Ham. Brian Borrows replied for Coventry with a penalty three minutes from time.

Luton moved into fourth place with a 1-0 win over Leicester on its artificial pitch at Kenilworth Road, Mike Newell scoring in the 59th minute, while Queen's Park Rangers — another side playing on plastic — beat Southampton 2-1.

Tottenham's Steve Hodge turned out against former club Aston Villa and provided the perfect answer to the Villa fans who booed his every touch by scoring twice in the 3-0 win.

Nico Claesen, the Belgian international forward, proved he is finally acclimatising to English soccer by scoring the third goal in the 71st minute.

Arsenal leads the First Division with 52 points followed by Everton with 50 and Liverpool 48. At the bottom, Newcastle has 21 points, Aston Villa and Leicester 24.

In Scotland, Celtic increased its lead at the top of the Premier Division to two points when it recovered from an early shock to beat Falkirk 2-1. International strikers Brian McClair and Maurice Johnston scored the Celtic goals.

Rangers goalkeeper Chris Woods equalled a British record by completing his 12th game without conceding a goal.

The Bob Hope International Celebrity Golf Invitational is to be played in late 1987 or early 1988 at Chung Shan in southern China near Hong Kong, said Ken Kantor, a spokesman for Hope.

The comedian began his own charity tournament, the Bob Hope Desert Classic, in the United States in 1960. Now played on four courses in California, the tournament has raised more than \$15 million for charity.

The China tournament is expected to be a pro-amateur format, featuring top international golfers teamed with amateur partners.

The Chung Shan course, one of three built so far in China, was designed three years ago by Arnold Palmer, said David Wong, a consultant for United Way International and the executive director of the tournament.

Tournament organisers include the golf course's chairman, Henry Fok, a Hong Kong shipping, construction and real estate kingpin, Wong said.

The organisers have a verbal commitment with the Chinese government, Wong said. Proceeds of the charity tournament will be split between United Way International and the China Golf Association, he said.

Austrian wins world luge title

INNSBRUCK, Austria (AP) — Austrian Markus Prock combined two excellent runs to win the men's singles title at the World Luge Championships at Igls on Saturday.

Prock, 21, sped down the 1,242.67-metre ice chute at up to 130 kilometres an hour, beating favoured East German, Soviet and Austrian rivals. He had an overall time of two minutes and 32.990 seconds.

Jens Mueller of East Germany, finished second with a total time of 2:33.129, while Sergei Danilin of the Soviet Union was third in 2:33.278.

"The strain on my nerves prior to the third and decisive run was very great," said the Austrian, "above all when I saw Mueller's super time."

Prock, who was timed in 50.343 seconds in the first heat on Friday, said he was not sure whether he would be able to compete this season after suffering a torn crucial ligament.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Italy thrashes Malta in European match

BERGAMO, Italy (R) — Sandro Altobelli shrugged off his recent indifferent form by scoring twice in Italy's 5-0 win over Malta in a European Championship Group Two qualifier Saturday. Altobelli, who missed two penalties when Italy won 2-0 in Malta last month, made amends with a vengeance by scoring twice in the space of 10 minutes during the first half. His first came in the 24th minute when, with Italy already 2-0 in front, he volleyed home. He was on target again in the 34th minute with a looping shot. The new-look Italians have maximum points from three games and they will be well on the road to the finals in West Germany in 1988 if they collect full points in Portugal next month.

Maradona returns to action for charity

TOKYO (R) — Diego Maradona made a surprise return to action Saturday when he turned out for a South American team against a Japan selection in a charity match in aid of the world's deprived children. The Argentine World Cup-winning captain was advised not to play after injuring his left ankle playing for his Italian club side Napoli against Brescia last Sunday. But he insisted on turning out in the match for the U.N. International Children's Fund (UNICEF). "The ankle was okay and I was running well," he said after playing alongside his younger brother Raul and Brazilian stars Edinho and Josimar, who scored the only goal as the South Americans won 1-0.

Mets pitcher placed on probation

TAMPA, Florida (AP) — New York Mets pitcher Dwight Gooden was placed on three years probation on Friday and ordered to perform at least 160 hours of community service after pleading no contest to resisting arrest and battery on a police officer. The charges grew out of a Dec. 13 confrontation with police after Gooden, 22, was stopped for an alleged traffic infraction and asked for his driver's license. He had faced a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. "I'm happy with the way things worked out," the 1985 National League Cy Young award winner said outside the courthouse. He said he thought the outcome was in his "best interest" and gave him the opportunity now to "concentrate on baseball."

Liverpool pulls out of Statham deal

LONDON (R) — Defender Statham's £250,000 (\$380,000) dream move to Liverpool became a nightmare when the league champions pulled out on medical grounds. Player-manager Kenny Dalglish had snapped-up Statham from Second Division West Bromwich Albion when full-back Jim Beglin broke a leg in Wednesday's League Cup clash at Everton. The transfer was registered in time for Statham to complete his surprise elevation in front of the Anfield fans against Newcastle Sunday. But Statham's hopes were dashed after Saturday's formal medical check. Statham, 27, has been troubled by achilles, groin and cartilage problems in the last 18 months and was sidelined for the first half of the season.

French, Canadian win in skiing

BRECKENRIDGE, Colorado (AP) — France's Philippe Deiber bumped his way past a final field of 16 to take the mogul crown Friday in the second leg of the Swatch freestyle World Cup competition at Breckenridge. Deiber has a subjective score of 25.411. Hans Engelsen-Eide of Norway was close behind at 25.066, and Deiber's countryman Eric Berthoin completed a European sweep with a score of 24.865. In the women's mogul competition, Canada's Lee Morrison continued her domination of the international field by defeating West Germany's Tatjana Mittermayer 23.368 to 23.246.

Johnson runs wind-assisted record

PERTH, Australia (R) — Canada's Commonwealth champion Ben Johnson ran a wind-assisted 9.7 seconds for the 100 metres at an international athletics meeting. Johnson, assisted by a following wind of 3.6 metres per second, coasted to victory with Britain's 1980 Olympic champion Allan Wells third in 10.2. The maximum allowable wind assistance is 2.00 metres a second. American Calvin Smith holds the current world record of 9.93 seconds. Britain's 1,500 metres world champion Steve Cram broke down with what appeared to be a pulled muscle in his right leg on the final lap of the mile event. Cram, whose leg was heavily bandaged after the race, said the injury was the result of running before he was ready.

Japanese wins ski jumping event

SAPPORO, Japan (AP) — Akira Sato of Japan jumped 89 metres twice, the day's longest jumps, to win 224.3 points and the 70-metre World Cup ski jumping event Saturday on Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido. Miran Tepes of Yugoslavia, the best foreign jumper in the one-day competition, took second place in the event with 216.00 points. The 25-year-old Tepes jumped 88.00, the day's longest jump among 20 foreign participants, and 87.0 metres at Miyazonomi Hill, site of the 1972 Sapporo Winter Olympics.

Rebel cricketers struggle against province

PRETORIA (R) — Roy Pienaar hit 90 to put Northern Transvaal on top against a lack-lustre rebel Australian bowling attack on the first day of their three-day cricket match Saturday. The home team declared shortly before the close at 315 for eight and the rebels were seven without loss at the close. Pienaar struck 15 fours before he was second man out, one of pace bowler Terry Alderman's three victims. English county player Anton Ferreira lifted the middle order by cracking a half century from only 55 balls, including 14 off one over from Alderman, before he was finally caught for 69 off the bowling of John Maguire who finished with four for 86.

Boston Celtics whip Atlanta

NEW YORK (AP) — Boston's K.C. Jones feels like a man with a kingdom, and his Celtics are taking a great deal of pride in treating their coach like royalty.

"It makes me feel like King Tut," Jones said Friday night after the Celtics whipped the Atlanta Hawks 126-106 to clinch his spot as the winningest coach in the NBA East and send him to Seattle on Feb. 8 as coach of the East all-stars for the fourth straight year.

"We wanted to clinch the coaching job for K.C.," said Larry Bird, who led the rout with a season-high 40 points and 12 rebounds. "With our team, I think K.C. will be coaching all-stars for a long time."

Elsewhere, it was Washington 109, Phoenix 90; Seattle 125, New Jersey 120; Houston 109, New York 95; Chicago 117; Cleveland 96; Utah 123, Golden State 100; Detroit 100; Los Angeles Clippers 97; Portland 109; Sacramento 89.

Danny Ainge, who matched Bird's three three-point shots, had

20 points. Kevin McHale added 19 as the Celtics won for the sixth time in seven games and 13th in their last 15. The Celtics also extended their Boston Garden record to 54-0 against conference rivals since a playoff loss to Milwaukee in 1985.

Atlanta was led by reserve guard John Battle with 21 points and Antoine Carr with 18. Dominique Wilkins had only 17, nearly 10 points below his average, while 7-foot Tree Rollins managed just four.

Bulls 109, Suns 90

Jeff Malone scored 24 points and Moses Malone added 21 for Washington. Phoenix was led by Larry Nance with 19 points, while Walter Davis and William Bedford added 16 apiece.

Supersonics 125, Nets 120

Xavier McDaniel scored 32 points and Dale Ellis added 30 for Seattle, but it was Maurice Lucas, who snapped a 118-118 deadlock to put the Sonics ahead for good when he drove the lane for a basket with 46 seconds to play.

Rockets 109, Knicks 95

Houston put the game away with outstanding defence in the third quarter, limiting New York to 13 points while building a 75-60 lead. Akeem Olatunji added 18 points and 13 rebounds for the Rockets, who have won eight of their nine games and 11 of 13.

Jazz 123, Warriors 100

Utah got 25 points from Darrell Griffith, and Karl Malone added 19 points and 12 rebounds as the Jazz ran the Warriors out of the Salt Palace.

Bulls 117, Cavaliers 96

It wasn't the best of nights for Chicago's Michael Jordan, despite scoring 20 of his 35 points in the third quarter as the Bulls handed Cleveland its eight straight road loss.

Trail Blazers 109, Kings 89

Portland got 20 points and 16 rebounds from Kenny Carr to snap a three-game losing streak and end Sacramento's three-game winning streak.

Pistons 100, Clippers 97

Isiah Thomas scored six of 21 points in the final two minutes as Detroit Pistons rallied from a 92-86 deficit by scoring 11 consecutive points over a two-minute span in the fourth quarter.

England scores hat trick in World Series Cup

ADELAIDE, Australia (R) — England became the first country to complete a hat trick of one-day international cricket victories over the West Indies with a resounding 89-run win in their World Series Cup match Saturday.

Following wins over the former world champion in Perth and Brisbane, England gave a magnificent exhibition of batting, bowling and fielding to consolidate its lead in the cup table. England now has six points from four matches and West Indies and Australia have two each from three.

After totalling 252 for six off its 50 overs, England dismissed West Indies for 163 in 45.5 overs through a mixture of speed and spin.

England was given a splendid start by openers Chris Broad and Bill Athey who put on 121 for the first wicket.

Athey survived chances to wicketkeeper Jeff Dujon and Joel Garner at slip to reach his half century first from 97 balls.

Broad followed soon after, needing seven fewer deliveries. Their partnership was finally ended in the 32nd over when Broad was stumped off West

Indies' captain Viv Richards for 55.

Athey followed for 64 when he skied a catch to Malcolm Marshall from off-spinner Roger Harper but at 148 for two England was perfectly placed for a run chase.

Ian Botham (seven) and Mike Gatting (three) failed to get a start but David Gower hit 29, the in-form Allan Lamb struck a belligerent unbeaten 33 and Jack Richards (18) and John Emburey (16 not out) both made useful contributions.

Pace bowler Phillip DeFreitas put West Indies under immediate pressure when he dismissed Gordon Greenidge and Richie Richardson for three each and fast-medium bowler Gladstone Small chipped in with the wicket of Greenidge's opening partner Desmond Haynes for 22.

Richards threatened briefly to turn the game West Indies' way when he moved ominously to 43 from only 64 balls with three fours and six.

But the West Indies skipper smashed Botham towards the long-on fence where Broad held a superb catch after the ball had appeared to go past him.

Off-spinner John Emburey then swept through the middle order, finishing with four for 37, as the West Indian batting fell apart.

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India seals border with Pakistan

Indian troops put on state of 'red alert'

NEW DELHI (R) — India Saturday advanced its troops in Punjab closer to the Pakistan border and put the army and air force on a state of "red alert."

An Indian Defence Ministry spokesman said the measures, which included sealing off the 450 kilometre frontier between Punjab and Pakistan, were in response to continued mobilisation of Pakistani forces all along the common border.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency quoted Indian reports that Pakistan had moved forward its offensive reserves. It estimated that 14 of Pakistan's 17 deployable divisions were massed on the Indian border.

PTI said senior defence officials had briefed Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on the situation Friday.

Last Tuesday Mr. Gandhi told a news conference in New Delhi: "Our information is that after Pakistani exercises (in October and November) the Pakistani forces did not withdraw like they normally withdraw, and they have remained at the frontline position which has caused us tremendous concern."

"We are trying to figure out

why Pakistan has left its force on our border," Mr. Gandhi added.

A spokesman in Islamabad said India's concerns were unwarranted, alleging that New Delhi's objective might be to divert attention from its own military exercises close to the Pakistan border.

Amid a hurried round of diplomatic consultations that included the U.S. and Soviet envoys, India's Minister of State for External Affairs, Natwar Singh, summoned the Pakistani Ambassador, M. Humayun Khan, but no statement was issued.

While the capital prepared for the long holiday weekend culminating in Monday's Republic Day parades and celebrations, the Defence Ministry said contingency troop movements were taking place in north India.

In Punjab, scene of an unrelenting campaign of murders by Sikh separatists, the Border Security Force and Central Reserve Police Force were put under operational

control of the army, a move officially sanctioned "during external aggression."

But despite the sudden upsurge of tension, Western diplomats contacted by Reuters did not predict conflict.

"It just looks like sabre-rattling to me," said one diplomat. The timing is all wrong for a shooting war — six foreign heads of state are here for the African Fund summit, Republic Day is on Monday and the people just aren't prepared for a fight with Pakistan.

"I just don't know what they (the Indians) are up to," said another diplomat. "A strike across the frontier to take out the Sikh terrorist training bases is simply unthinkable."

"A raid like that would start a full-scale war, and none of the people I have talked to can think of anything either side could gain by having one."

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since their partition after independence from Britain in 1947, two of them over the disputed northern Kashmir state.

Relations have worsened in the past year over Punjab, but Pakistan denies that it is training or arming Sikh militants, as India

alleges.

The official response came from a Foreign Ministry spokesman in Islamabad Friday: "There are no grounds whatsoever for concern."

Pakistan has proposed urgent talks with India to defuse the border tension.

But a government spokesman, announcing the proposal Friday after an urgently convened meeting of the defence committee of Prime Minister Mohammad Junejo's cabinet, said Pakistan would defend itself against any aggression with "determination and valour."

The talks "to devise urgent measures for a de-escalation of the tension" were proposed hours after India said it had sealed the border along Punjab state.

Pakistan accused New Delhi of acquiring "a capability for aggression" by concentrating forces on the border.

The spokesman said Pakistan desired peace and tension-free relations with India and "there is no reason or cause for any conflict. But if aggression is committed against Pakistan it will defend itself with determination and valour."

Spanish student shot during protests

MADRID — A 15-year-old girl was shot in the hip and at least two dozen other people were injured in violent clashes with police during a march by high school students protesting against Spain's education policy.

Residents described Friday's uproar as the worst student unrest since the death of General Francisco Franco in 1975 after four decades of dictatorial power.

Hospital sources said 15 policemen and 12 demonstrators were treated for minor injuries after four hours of pitched battles in central Madrid. The government said nine people were arrested.

Youths overturned cars, smashed traffic lights, bus shelters and phone boxes and pelted police with stones, sticks and

petrol bombs. A dozen police motorcycles were wrecked.

Police fought back with tear gas, water cannon, rubber bullets and baton charges. Witnesses said some officers fired their revolvers.

The government said it had suspended three policemen pending an investigation into the shooting of the girl, Maria Luis Prada. Her brother told reporters that she was sure police had opened fire.

The violence was blamed by the government on groups of rightwingers identified with Madrid's two main soccer clubs.

It said in a statement that the rightists provoked police guarding the Education Ministry during a march by some 10,000 high

school students at the end of a four-day strike. Some of the protesters then joined in the fighting.

The Students' Union said there were at least 50,000 marchers in Madrid and thousands more in provincial cities. Up to 2.5 million had headed the strike call.

The unrest began last month after similar demonstrations in Paris forced the French government to scrap plans to introduce selection procedures for universities.

The Spanish students want free entry to universities, a minimum wage of \$330 a month for those from poor families, unemployment benefit for jobless graduates and higher education spending.

Shultz urges Congress not to slash foreign aid

WASHINGTON (R) — Secretary of State George Shultz appealed to Congress to approve his request for \$19.6 billion in aid and other foreign spending which he said was needed to maintain U.S. influence abroad.

Mr. Shultz told the Senate Budget Committee that cuts of \$3.3 billion over the past two years threatened vital U.S. interests around the globe.

"They threaten the stability of our allies. They threaten our war on drug traffickers and on terrorists," he said.

Mr. Shultz spoke during the first of several visits he will make to Capitol Hill to defend his department's portion of President Reagan's record one-trillion-dollar budget for fiscal 1988, which starts in October.

Several senators said cuts were needed to reduce the budget deficit and criticised the administration for seeking huge increases in military aid at the expense of economic assistance.

Of the \$19.6 billion \$15.2 billion is for foreign military and economic aid, U.S. contributions to international organisations and multilateral lending banks, the Peace Corps, drug control programmes and refugee assistance.

Two key U.S. allies in the Middle East, Israel and Egypt, account for by far the largest share of U.S. foreign aid — \$5.3 billion.

The Philippines and four NATO allies, Spain, Portugal, Greece and Turkey, are slated for \$2.1 billion, with U.S. allies in Central America and the Caribbean getting \$1.4 billion.

U.N. issues brochure to offset TV series

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United Nations, stung by a forthcoming U.S. television series it regards as hostile, has published an illustrated brochure about its peace-keeping operations in various parts of the world.

The pamphlet is intended to offset an ABC Television mini-series titled "America" about life in the United States 10 years after its supposed occupation by the Soviet Union.

The U.N. is particularly irked by the series' depiction of so-called "United Nations Special Service Units" that brutally enforce the occupation.

The U.N. regards this as a travesty of its efforts to help restore peace to trouble-spots around the world, and last year hired a lawyer to convince ABC to run some factual programming as a counterbalance.

The brochure, consisting of a single folded sheet, provides background about the history of U.N. peace-keeping and gives details of current U.N. operations in the Middle East, in Cyprus and in Kashmir.

A U.N. spokesman said its publication in advance of the America premiere on Feb. 15 was no coincidence.

"It is an effort on our part to make available to people accurate information about peace-keeping programmes of the United Nations."

ABC has said its mini-series is fictional and the organisation depicted in it bears no similarity to the U.N.

China seeks to reassure intellectuals

PEKING (R) — China, seeking to keep the confidence of the country's intellectuals, Saturday promised that a campaign against "bourgeois liberalism" would not affect freedom of academic debate.

Two well-known intellectuals have been publicly attacked and dismissed from the Communist Party for advocating "bourgeois liberalism," a phrase used to denounce ideas inspired by Western-style democracy and proposals that would reduce the power of the party.

Party Chief Hu Yaobang resigned eight days after reports that he had been accused of aiding the spread of such ideas.

The official Guangming Daily, one of the newspapers most vocal in criticising "bourgeois liberalism," said in a front-page commentary Saturday that fears that the campaign would hinder academic freedom were unfounded.

"Before policy has been decided, open debate and discussion is permitted," it said. "But once it has been decided, it must be implemented rigorously. However, people may still retain privately their own opinion and can submit them through the proper channels."

The paper said that this had been policy since 1979, when Deng Xiaoping rose to power.

Freedom of study, creativity, discussion and criticism are permitted as long as those involved respect the constitution and the party leadership, the paper said.

Feud threatens Irish guerrilla group

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) — The Irish National Liberation Army (INLA) has been split by serious feuding within its ranks, according to several reports.

Press Association, the British domestic news agency, quoted unidentified sources in Dublin as saying the outlawed organisation had disbanded. The report could not be confirmed.

The Marxist INLA was formed 13 years ago by breakaway members of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) after the IRA ordered a temporary cease-fire in its campaign to force the British out of Northern Ireland.

The INLA first came to prominence in 1979 with the murder of Airey Neave, a leading British Conservative politician.

Reports from unidentified sources in the Irish capital said

Aquino calls for unity

TACLOBAN, Philippines (R) — President Corason Aquino said Saturday she hoped a massacre of demonstrators near her palace on Thursday will never be repeated — while a leftwing alliance announced plans that could put that hope to the test.

Making her first public appearance since troops killed more than a dozen protesting farm workers in the worst political violence of her rule, Mrs. Aquino told 20,000 cheering supporters: "I pray this won't happen again. Let's stop fighting among ourselves."

As she spoke, the leaders of the country's largest alliance announced plans for a mass demonstration on Monday in which protesters would swarm across the Mendiola Bridge leading to the grounds of Malacañang Palace.

Thursday's violence erupted when marchers in the forefront of a crowd of 10,000 angry farm workers tried to shove their way past 1,000 armed troops and police to cross the bridge, breaking a ban against protests on the palace grounds.

Leonardo Alejandro, a leader of Bayan, the New People's Alliance, told reporters: "We are not going to the foot of the bridge. We are determined to cross the bridge ... If there is no military or police there is no

violence."

He added: "This is a test whether the government of Cory Aquino has control of the military."

Mrs. Aquino, because of the massacre, cancelled all her public appearances Friday to meet advisers.

But she went ahead as previously scheduled with a four-city swing through the central Philippines, stopping first in Tacloban, the capital of former first Lady Imelda Marcos's home province of Leyte. Mrs. Aquino is campaigning for public approval of her new constitution of Feb. 2.

In Tacloban, she was greeted by a cheering crowd of 20,000 people who spilled out of an open air amphitheatre to see her. People crowded rooftops and even perched on trees for a view.

Well-wishers presented her a cake to mark her 54th birthday Sunday.

But the troubles in Manila were not far from her mind. "As you know we have done a lot to preserve this democracy, but the other day there was an unfortunate incident in Mendiola. Violence broke out and 15 people were killed," she said.

She added: "I visited the wounded last night at the Philippine General Hospital to find out if they could tell me what happened. They told me they had no intention to cause trouble."

CIA denies report that Casey plans to resign

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has denied a report that Director William Casey would leave the hospital where he is being treated for brain cancer as early as next week and then go to his office to resign.

"There is nothing to it as far as I know," said CIA spokesman George Lauder. "It's news to the agency. We have no information of that type."

The report, broadcast by CBS News, cited anonymous sources as saying Mr. Casey hopes to go home as early as next week, gather his remaining strength and return to CIA headquarters for one last day to formally submit his resignation to President Ronald Reagan.

However, Mr. Lauder said the agency understood that Mr. Casey would remain in the hospital through January, receiving

radiation treatments.

Mr. Casey, 73, has been hospitalised since Dec. 18, when surgeons removed a malignant brain tumour. On Thursday, the hospital disclosed that he also has suffered from cancer of the prostate gland.

But, officials at Georgetown University Hospital said the director was successfully treated for the prostate condition a year and a half ago and "continues to improve daily" while being treated for the brain cancer.

Dale Petroskey, a White House spokesman, had no comment on the report Friday.

Dhaka opposition stages walkout from parliament

DHAKA (AP) — The opposition staged a noisy walkout from the opening session of the Bangladesh parliament Saturday after President Hussain Muhammad Ershad walked unannounced into the assembly.

Ninety-one opposition members earlier had planned to boycott the president's traditional address to the opening of parliament, but reacted furiously when the president arrived unexpectedly.

"The rules of procedure of the house and the convention provides that the president's arrival in the house is announced and he is escorted by the speaker in a ceremonial manner. This rule was violated," leftist leader Suranjit Sen Gupta said after the walkout, which followed eight minutes of table thumping and noise at the president's entry.

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A reorganised body would then concentrate on providing support for the families of about 70 INLA members still in prison.

One INLA source was quoted as saying: "For a number of years now we have been breaking up into factions. Each time a new leader tried to get the movement behind him a rival faction would emerge."

In 1979, the INLA said it planted a bomb under the car of Neave, the Tory party spokesman on Northern Ireland, killing him as he drove out of a House of Commons parking lot.

The INLA also said it planted a bomb at an inn in Ballylilly, in the Northern Ireland county of Londonderry, in December 1982 that killed 11 soldiers and six civilians.

Chilean judge suspends probe into police murders

SANTIAGO (R) — A Chilean judge, who accuses police of involvement in the brutal murder of three Communists in 1985, has suspended a two-year probe into the case and alleged a lack of police cooperation with the inquiry.

Judge Jose Canovas reaffirmed his earlier finding that there was clear evidence of police involvement in the abduction of the three men, carried out in broad daylight on a crowded Santiago street on March 29, 1985.

Manuel Guerrero, Santiago Natino and Jose Manuel Parada, who worked for a Catholic Church human rights group, were found next day with their throats slit in a ditch outside Santiago.

"There are clear indications of the involvement in these events of uniformed members of the Carabineros (para-military police)," Judge Canovas said in a statement issued at a news conference.

But as the higher courts had not considered this evidence sufficient to indict particular individuals, either as authors or accomplices in the crime, Canovas said he was suspending the inquiry.

He said his instructions for specific investigations had gone unanswered or turned into defences of the police, which denies its members were involved.

The church's Solidarity Vicariate, where Parada worked, said it would continue to press for the case to be resolved. But legal sources said the case could only be re-opened on the presentation of fresh evidence.

"We regret that once again such a brutal crime will go unpunished because of the impossibility of identifying individual responsibility," the vicariate said in a statement.

Seven police officials, including two colonels, were arrested on the orders of Judge Canovas. But

they were released following a supreme court ruling in early 1986.

While praising Judge Canovas for his efforts, the vicariate said that the negative result of the investigation was further proof that the solving of such cases in Chile depended on who were the victims and who were the possible authors.

According to human rights officials, no member of the security forces has been jailed for alleged crimes committed against government opponents in the military's 13-year rule.

The case provoked the resignation of then-police chief and member of the military junta, Gen. Cesar Mendonza, and plunged the military government into one of its worst political crises since the 1973 coup which brought it to power.

Meanwhile Chile's military government Friday announced it was authorising a further 154

political exiles to return home in line with a pledge to bring the system to a virtual end within the next few months.

The Interior Ministry said the new list formed part of a batch of 500 names whose cases are being studied.

President Augusto Pinochet announced last month that the majority of Chile's several thousand political exiles would be permitted to return by the end of March.

Following the announcement, the government issued a first list of 227 names and said there would be further lists over the coming weeks.

The recent lists would leave the official number of opponents barred from returning at around 3,150. But human rights officials say the real figure is much higher as the government takes no account of those who have taken out nationality in other countries.

COLUMNS 7 & 8

'Don't rush — think before you flush'

NEW YORK (AP) — The city has warned New Yorkers to avoid a massive rush to bathtubs during half-time or at the end of Sunday's super bowl football game. Football fans should stagger their bathroom visits during the game between the New York Giants and Denver Broncos, said Harvey Schultz, the city's commissioner of environmental protection. "If millions of New Yorkers flush at the same time, we're not quite sure what would happen," Schultz said. Tongue-in-cheek, he declared it "super flush Sunday." Temporary drops in water pressure might occur, affecting toilets on upper floors of high-rise buildings, said Department spokeswoman Joan Paylo. "Don't rush — and think before you flush," Schultz urged.

Rebels kill adulterers in Philippines

DINAIG, Philippines (R) — Firing squads of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), a Muslim separatist group, are executing adulterers in the southern Philippine villages they control, a senior MNLF leader said. "We are using death squads for adultery. It's very rare but it has happened," central Mindanao Brig.-Gen. Mustamin Sama told Reuters. The MNLF, the largest but usually regarded as the least fundamentalist of the Muslim separatist organisations fighting Manila for self-rule on the island, puts to death villagers for adultery and murder only after they have been convicted by revolutionary courts, he said.

One James Bond offers advice to another

LONDON (AP) — A veteran James Bond offered advice to a new recruit: Sean Connery said he hopes the newest screen 007, Timothy Dalton, "has got a good lawyer." "I didn't have a good lawyer. I was too trusting," said Connery, a veteran of seven James Bond films that made him a millionaire superstar. He said his earnings might have been greater if his legal advice had been better. In 1984, he sued MGM-UA and producer Albert Broccoli for \$225 million he claimed he was owed from five Bond films. Dalton, 40, is currently filming the Living Daylights, the newest Bond adventure, at Pinewood Studios outside London. "I sincerely hope it's a big success for him. He's a good actor," Connery said at a news conference.

Sankara sends ministers to school

OUAGADOUGOU (R) — Capt. Thomas Sankara, the Burkina Faso leader, has ordered his cabinet ministers to school again, this time to study computer sciences. An official statement said Burkina Faso, formerly known as Upper Volta and one of the world's poorest nations, should master computer technology. Knowledge of computer sciences would also ease the burden on cabinet members, it added. Two years ago Sankara, 38, sent cabinet ministers and senior government officials to weekly English classes. The French-educated paratrooper officer is fluent in the language.

Drunk drivers refuse shame plates

MOSCOW (R) — Police in the Soviet Baltic Republic of Estonia are offering drunk drivers an alternative punishment to losing their licences — they may carry shame plates identifying them as a danger to themselves and others. But the Communist youth daily Kommunistas Pravda reported that since the beginning of the year, only two drivers had agreed to take the plates beginning with the letter O for "opasni" or dangerous. Other drunk drivers were too embarrassed and preferred to keep their cars off the roads, the newspaper said.

Guns stolen from Dutch armoury

THE HAGUE (R) — Thieves stole 62 Uzi sub-machine guns and other weapons from the armoury of the Ede-Oost Military Barracks in the eastern Netherlands, a Dutch Defence Department spokesman said. The haul, which the spokesman described as one of the largest weapons thefts from a Dutch barracks, comprised 62 Uzis, five FN Browning pistols and flare pistol. The spokesman said the authorities had no clues as to who was responsible with a thorough knowledge of the barracks complex.

Ershad orders use of mother tongue

DHAKA (R) — President Hossain Mohammad Ershad ordered Bangladeshi civil servants to immediately stop using English and start using their native language in all official matters. "I am asking for strict obedience of the order to overcome an ominous tendency by officials to use English, defying previous instructions," he told parliament. "Anyone violating the order will be liable to punishment," he said. He added: "We have been talking for a long time about the use of Bangla in all spheres of national life but in reality done nothing to give due respect to our mother tongue."

Van Gogh's Sunflowers to be sold

LONDON (AP) — Vincent Gogh's famous painting of Sunflowers will be sold in London in March and is expected to fetch a world record of well above \$11 million, Christie's auction house said. "The painting is one of the most important we have ever had to sell — it is popular throughout the world and is a glamorous image of modern art," said James Roundell, director of Christie's Impressionist Paintings Department. "When people think of Van Gogh they think of Sunflowers, and when they think of Sunflowers they think of Van Gogh," he said. Roundell said the auction would take place March 30.

Lawyer's murder relics sold

LONDON (AP) — A collection of murder weapons that belonged to Sir Edward Marshall Hall, a celebrated trial lawyer early this century, sold at auction for £3,960 (\$6,019), Christie's said. Revolvers, ammunition, daggers, photographs of bodies and other relics were in Hall's so-called black museum collection. He assembled them from 13 cases in which he successfully defended clients, often when their cases seemed hopeless and they appeared destined for the hangman. He usually got the relics from admiring police officers — impossible nowadays as murder case exhibits go to police museums. The collection, bought by an unidentified Briton, was last sold at Christie's auction house in 1980 for £1,200 (then \$2,880) to John Harding, a computer expert, who said he admired Hall.

Retirement home bought for Reagans

NEW YORK (R) — Friends of President Reagan and his wife have bought them a retirement home with a swimming pool in the exclusive Bel Air section of Los Angeles for \$2.5 million, according to a television report. Cable News Network (CNN) said nearly 20 friends contributed funds for the property, which the Reagans would occupy after the president's term ends in January 1989, on the apparent understanding the Reagans would repay them. The house, bought from a 90-year-old woman, is on one-and-a-quarter acres (0.5 hectares) of prime real estate, CNN said. The network said the Reagans have frequently talked about retiring to California when the president's term expires but Nancy Reagan feels their ranch above Santa Barbara is too small and isolated. If the Reagans move into the house their neighbours in the area would include actress Elizabeth Taylor.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠110 ♣K762 ♠982 ♠K7
Partner opens the bidding with two no trump. What do you respond?
A.—Whether you use a 23-24 or 21-22 point range, you are in slam territory; indeed, if partner has a heart fit slam is likely. You do not need to do anything drastic to explore the possibilities. Start with three hearts. If partner denies a hand by rebidding three no trump, pass if you use the weaker range, but invite slam with four no trump if you employ the stronger.

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South with 80 on score you hold:
♠AQ10754 ♣6 ♠AQ92 ♠7
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
5 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass
6 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass
7 ♠ Pass 7 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—With 80 on score, you run the risk of partner passing any simple rebid you make. Therefore, a jump of some sort is clearly indicated. With such a powerful suit, we recommend you leap to three spades to show partner you don't need support from him to contemplate a slam.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠93 ♠4 ♠AJ102 ♠AJ873
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
5 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass
6 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass
7 ♠ Pass 7 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—Your hand has gotten worse as the auction has progressed. You have limited support for partner's first suit and none for his second, and half your strength is in the unbid suit. Bid three no trump to advise partner of that fact.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠93 ♠4 ♠AJ102 ♠AJ873
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
5 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass
6 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass
7 ♠ Pass 7 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—Partner has made a game try in diamonds, and while your trump support could hardly be better, you have the worst holding in the key suit. Since partner is a passed hand and you opened an aceless 14, prudence dictates a quiet return to three spades.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AQ92 ♠J109 ♠63 ♠K752
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
5 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass
6 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass
7 ♠ Pass 7 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—You certainly want to be in game, but you can't be sure which. All you need to do for the moment is bid three diamonds. That is not a sign-off: no one can know that a hand will make exactly nine tricks at diamonds but not eight or nine at no trump. If you have a weak hand and want to get out, you must pass two no trump.

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠93 ♠4 ♠AJ1